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Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Sisterhood Is Global Institute

(Special status)

Aims and objectives

The Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI), an international non-governmental organization, seeks to deepen the understanding of women's human rights at the local, national, regional, and global levels, and strives to strengthen the capacity of women to exercise their rights. SIGI's primary objectives are to inform women of the basic rights guaranteed to them under international human rights conventions and to empower them to attain those rights; increase public awareness and concern about human rights abuses committed against women; facilitate the direct participation of women from the "global south" in international debates concerning their rights; and conduct and facilitate research, and provide training models for women from the developing world in the areas of human rights education, communication, and leadership. SIGI has individual members in over 60 countries and maintains a network of more than 1,300 individuals and organizations around the world. SIGI'S geographical membership has increased to include members from Azerbaijan, Malaysia, and Uzbekistan.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and United Nations conferences/ meetings

Members of SIGI and the Executive Director represented the Institute at the June 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, where they participated in a panel entitled "Global Feminism: Finding Similarities, Seeking Solutions". SIGI representatives also attended the International Conference on Population and Development (September 1994, Cairo), and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (June 1996, Istanbul).

In September 1995, the officers and steering committee as well as other members of SIGI attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, where they organized and participated in numerous panels and acted as official governmental delegates. SIGI members were also active participants at the NGO Forum preceding the Conference. SIGI members also attended the following regional preparatory conferences — Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Conference (June 1994, Jakarta), Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Conference (September 1994, Buenos Aires), European Regional Preparatory Conference (October 1994, Vienna), Western Asian Regional Preparatory Conference (November 1994, Amman), and African Regional Preparatory Conference (November 1994, Dakar). Moreover, SIGI presented a list of recommendations for inclusion in the draft Platform for Action to all members of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in March 1995 in New York. The recommendations were compiled as a result of three international preparatory conferences convened by SIGI on issues that were not adequately stressed in the regional preparatory conferences. The three SIGI conferences were "Religion, Culture, and Women's Human Rights in the Muslim World", held in Washington, D.C. (9–10 September 1994), "Refugee Women and Children in Times of Conflict, held in Athens (15–17 September 1994), and "Integration of Women in Commerce and Industry: An Agenda for the Twenty-first Century", held in Lusaka (25–27 October 1994).

SIGI has regularly attended the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. Various members of SIGI represented their Governments at the Commission meetings. SIGI has also participated vigorously in non-governmental organization consultations and other activities that parallel the sessions of the Commission. At the thirty-eighth session, held in March 1994, SIGI presented a workshop "Women's voices and the global media: strategies for inclusion/models for change" and a panel discussion "Refugee and displaced women: strategies for demilitarization and peace for the twenty-first century". SIGI members were also active participants in the thirty-ninth session in March 1995, where SIGI presented a symposium "Challenge to peace, human rights, and civil institution-building: meeting the needs of uprooted women", and in the fortieth session, held in March 1996.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies

SIGI, in cooperation with UNHCR, organized a conference on the issue of refugee women and children in times of conflict, in Athens, in September 1994.

Other activities

Through alerts, publications, and human rights education programmes, SIGI has been supportive of various United Nations resolutions relating to human rights at the national, regional and international levels.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

Throughout the period under review SIGI has consulted with numerous officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities

With the support of UNIDO and other funding institutions, in 1995 SIGI produced and published *Women to Women Dialogues: Strategies for the 21st Century*, (consisting of recommendations of the three international preparatory conferences for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

2. Howard League for Penal Reform

(Special status, granted 1947)

Statement of purpose

The Howard League takes a lead in the development of policy for prisons and the treatment of offenders, based on impartial and informed research. It seeks to educate the public and professionals in the United Kingdom and internationally about good practice in the penal system. It has a membership of 3,000 individuals and institutions mainly in the United Kingdom but also in 20 or so other countries. It is funded entirely from voluntary contributions.

Participation in United Nations meetings

Over the past four years the Howard League has regularly sent representatives to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna. It has had a permanent representative in Vienna. It has been active in promoting the application of norms and standards, worked to develop policies on violence against women, and to encourage the development of good practice with regard to juveniles with regard to the various United Nations standards. Sue Wade, Council member of the Howard League and Deputy Chief Probation Officer in Hampshire, attended the European preparatory meeting for the ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

Sue Wade and Frances Crook, Director of the Howard League, attended the Congress held in Cairo in 1995. An ancillary meeting to discuss juvenile justice and the application of United Nations standards was organized by the Howard League and attended by 100 people representing Governments and non-governmental organizations. It was addressed by non-governmental organizations from the United States, Argentina, Egypt, Israel and the United Kingdom.

Dick Whitfield, Chair of the International Committee of the Howard League and Chief Probation Officer in Kent, attended the International, Scientific, Professional and Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in Italy in 1995.

David Mathieson, Council member of the Howard League and Chief Probation Officer in Merseyside, participated in the preparatory expert meeting for the International Training Workshop on Probation.

Activities

In 1997 the League undertook a technical assistance mission to Bosnia specifically to advise on the treatment of prisoners post-release. Jack Holland, a member of the Howard League International Committee and Assistant Chief Probation Officer in Hampshire, went twice to Bosnia with Christian Kuhn, the Howard League's representative in Vienna. They visited prisons and met prison governors and governmental ministers in order to explore, among other issues, how to implement United Nations standards.

The Howard League has written reports on human rights in the administration of justice and, in particular, on the treatment of children and juveniles in detention. It has submitted papers and letters to the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

A Howard League conference in London in 1995, on the treatment of children involved in the criminal justice system, was addressed by Thomas Hammarberg on perspectives of the Convention. This speech generated a good deal of public interest and television coverage in the United Kingdom.

The Howard League has also been involved in developing training for prison staff in cooperation with the United Nations.

Relevant publications of the League

Darkness and Light: Justice, Crime and Management for Today (London, 1996); *Drug Couriers: A New Perspective* (London, 1996); *Child Offenders: UK and International Practice* (London, 1995); *Banged up, Beaten up, Cutting up* (London, 1995); *Families Matter* (London,

1994); *The Howard League Good Practice Guide on Working with Young Offenders* (London, 1994).

3. Human Rights Advocates

(Special status, granted 1985)

Human Rights Advocates (HRA) has 20 years of experience working on international human rights issues at the United Nations and elsewhere. The goal of the organization is to promote fundamental human rights worldwide through the use and further development of international human rights and humanitarian law. Its primary activities are to educate law students and others about the human rights bodies of the United Nations and to facilitate the attendance of students at meetings of those bodies to further their learning process.

HRA has also intervened in cases in the United States where international human rights law would be helpful. It has filed *amicus* briefs in cases involving violations of customary international laws, degrading treatment and punishment in prisons, the death penalty and affirmative action.

HRA continues to have no paid staff and an annual budget of less than $8,000. The funding comes largely from local law schools and modest membership dues and goes mainly to pay for the production and mailing of its newsletter and notices of its public education events and for stipends for students who travel to Geneva to participate in the meetings of United Nations human rights bodies.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies or conferences

(a) 1994, Commission on Human Rights. Written interventions: E/CN.4/1994/NGO/27; E/CN.4/1994/NGO/23; E/CN.4/1994/NGO/30; E/CN.4/1994/NGO/50. Oral interventions: agenda items 3, 11, 12;

(b) 1995, Commission on Human Rights. Written interventions: E/CN.4/1995/NGO/36, joined in intervention on human rights and environment. Oral interventions: items 11, 12 and 13;

(c) 1996, Commission on Human Rights. Written interventions: E/CN.4/1996/23/Add.1 and 2; item 13. Oral interventions: item 10;

(d) 1997, Commission on Human Rights. Written interventions: E/CN.4/1997/NGO/9; E/CN.4/1997/NGO/48; E/CN.4/1997/NGO/79; E/CN.4/1997/NGO/54; E/CN.4/1997/NGO/71; item 14. Oral interventions: item 13;

(e) 1994, Subcommission. Written interventions: Agenda item 15; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/NGO/10(a); Joint Declaration on Methods of Work of Subcommission. Oral interventions: items 20, 17 (b) and 18;

(f) 1995, Subcommission. Written interventions: item 11. Oral interventions;

(g) 1997, Subcommission. Written interventions: E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/NGO/10;

(h) 1996, Commission on the Status of Women. Attendance only;

(i) Fourth World Conference on Women. Written statements: NGO/80, NGO/79. Joined Joint NGO Intervention on Women's Human Rights (with 71 others).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

(a) Cooperation with the International Labour Organization on migrant worker rights issues;

(b) Participation in the Commission on Sustainable Development.

4. Human Rights Watch

(Special status, granted 1993)

Introduction

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world. It stands with victims and activists to prevent discrimination, to uphold political freedom, to protect people from inhumane conduct in wartime, and to bring offenders to justice. It investigates and exposes human rights violations and holds abusers accountable. It enlists the public and the international community to support the cause of human rights for all.

HRW began in 1978 with the founding of its Europe and Central Asia division (then known as Helsinki Watch). Today, it also includes divisions covering Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East. In addition, it includes three thematic divisions on arms, children's rights, and women's rights. It maintains offices in New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, London, Brussels, Moscow, Sarajevo, Dushanbe, Tashkent, Tbilisi, Rio de Janeiro, Kigali and Hong Kong. HRW is an independent, non-governmental organization, supported by contributions from

private individuals and foundations worldwide. It accepts no governmental funds, directly or indirectly.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and United Nations meetings

During the period under review (1994–1997) HRW attended each session of the Commission on Human Rights, submitting numerous written statements and making oral interventions. Each year HRW also attended the annual sessions of the Commission's Working Group on the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. HRW also regularly attended meetings of the Third Committee of the General Assembly. In 1995 and 1997, HRW attended the sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, submitting written statements and making an oral intervention in 1995. In addition, in 1994, HRW submitted a written statement to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Every year since 1995, HRW has attended the Commission on the Status of Women.

Representatives of HRW attended several United Nations world conferences: the International Conference on Population and Development, in Cairo in September 1994; the Fourth World Conference on Women, in Beijing in 1995; and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in Istanbul in June 1996.

In 1996, HRW participated in the work of the Economic and Social Council's Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations. Since 1997, HRW's United Nations representative has served as Vice-Chair of the International Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Human Rights, in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

In 1996, HRW was invited by the United Nations to participate in the Second International Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, held in Geneva by the Centre for Human Rights and the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS), and convened for the purpose of drafting a set of guidelines to assist States in formulating their HIV/AIDS policies.

HRW also participated in the regional conference to address the problems of refugees, internally displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in the Commonwealth of Independent States and relevant neighbouring States, held by UNHCR in May 1996 in Geneva, and subsequently was invited by UNHCR to be part of an editorial group drafting the NGO Guide to International Standards on Refugees and Human Rights. The group met in Geneva in October 1996, April 1997, and July 1997. In addition, HRW was invited to participate in the Steering Group of the CIS Conference, and the NGO preparatory meeting, held in Geneva in July 1997. In July 1997, at the invitation of UNDP, a HRW representative participated in the UNDP Conference on Good Governance, held in Addis Ababa.

HRW frequently provided information to the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights. It regularly attended sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, submitting information and responding to the Committee's enquiries. It also attended sessions of and provided information to the other human rights treaty bodies.

HRW frequently consulted with UNICEF on a number of issues, including, most prominently, child soldiers, child labour and police violence against street children. HRW regularly provided human rights materials to United Nations agencies and departments, such as UNHCR, UNDP, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, often in response to specific requests.

HRW attached great importance to the work of the ad hoc International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda. It maintained working contacts with the staffs of the two tribunals and published reports focusing on aspects of their work. It also followed closely and supported the work on the creation of an international criminal court.

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

HRW regularly advocated on behalf of the implementation of human rights resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly. It conducted its advocacy both in several of the countries it regularly monitors and in international forums. Every year during the period under review, HRW conducted advocacy on behalf of the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions regarding landmines.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

HRW maintained regular contacts with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, providing information and expertise on a range of issues. As an organization based in New York, it frequently consulted with members of different

departments of the Secretariat and participated in numerous meetings at United Nations Headquarters. It also regularly participated in the monthly briefings of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs with non-governmental organizations.

In September 1997, a representative of HRW, a co-founding organization of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, was invited to join Secretary-General Kofi Annan and other world leaders at a press conference at United Nations Headquarters marking the conclusion of negotiations of the ban treaty.

5. Indigenous World Association

(Special status, granted 1985)

The aims of the Indigenous World Association are to provide education in the application of international human rights initiatives, law and processes and to promote the rule of law domestically and internationally in relation to the rights of indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, and uprooted peoples, and to inform the concerned groups and the general public in various countries about the achievements and work of the United Nations system in those fields. The means of achieving these aims include: documentation and information in English and Spanish; organization of conferences, seminars, forums, and course curricula; emergency meetings on urgent situations; cooperation with other non-governmental organizations in the field; consultations with Governments, international and intergovernmental organizations and organs, with private institutions and religious bodies, regarding the rights of vulnerable peoples; participation in all relevant United Nations forums. The co-directors of the organization are Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Petuuche Gilbert (member of the Acoma Tribe, New Mexico, and member of the governing body of the Acoma Tribal Council). The organization is represented at United Nations Headquarters by Rosamel Milliman (Mapuche, Chile), who also represents the organization in South America. At the United Nations offices in Geneva, the representative is Ulises Rosas (Quechua, Perú). Other permanent representatives include Nganeko Minhinnick (Maori elder, New Zealand); Mililani B. Trask (Governor, Ka Lahui Hawai'i); Daniel Flores (Nahua, El Salvador), representative to Central America and Mexico. The Indigenous World Association was founded in Central America in 1981, was constituted as an association under the laws of the State of Geneva, Switzerland, in 1984, and received consultative II status with the Economic and Social Council in 1985.

Since its founding the organization has sent indigenous delegations to the following United Nations meetings: Commission on Human Rights and its Working Group on the [Indigenous] Draft Declaration; the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and its Working Groups on Indigenous Populations and on Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, all held annually in Geneva. Included in the organization's delegations to those meetings are representatives of indigenous communities that the organization trains to work within the Economic and Social Council to promote the human rights of indigenous peoples. The first trainee was Rigoberta Menchú Tún, Quiche leader from Guatemala, later Nobel Laureate (1992) and Special United Nations Ambassador for the Year of the World's Indigenous People (1993) and the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995–2004). The co-director of the Indigenous World Association accompanied and trained Ms. Menchú during the relevant 1982–1983 meetings of the United Nations, including the eighteenth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the first session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations; the 1982 session of the General Assembly's Third Committee, and the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The organization participated in the planning meetings in New York and Geneva for the Fourth World Conference on Women, and sent five representatives from five Latin American, African, and Asian countries to the conference in Beijing (September 1995), and was instrumental in planning and operating the indigenous centre (tent) at the parallel NGO conference.

The organization is included in the Special List of non-governmental organizations which cooperate with the International Labour Organization in Geneva. The ILO stipulates that only "non-governmental international organizations whose aims and objectives are in harmony with the spirit, aims and principles of the ILO Constitution and whose scope and capacity allow them to make a substantial contribution to the work of the ILO can enter into a cooperative arrangement with the ILO through its Special List". Since its founding, the organization has cooperated closely with UNHCR, particularly in Central America and Mexico, observing the situation of indigenous refugees. The co-director of the organization was an honorary guest of UNHCR at its regional conference on Central American refugees.

The Indigenous World Association provides information to Governments and non-governmental organizations in support of all resolutions concerning indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, and migrant workers. The organization has regularly consulted and cooperated with numerous officials of the United Nations Secretariat, in particular at the United Nations offices in Geneva — the Centre for Human Rights and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The organization closely cooperated with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations during its tenure of existence. Since its founding, the organization has paid particular attention to the increase in indigenous communities becoming refugees in neighbouring countries and internal refugees within their own States. In this regard, the organization has cooperated with a number of institutions in field-level collaboration and joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars and studies, including the Refugee Studies Programme at Oxford University, the Latin American Studies Association, and the Secretariat of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues in Geneva. To promote education about indigenous refugees, the organization has contributed five articles to the UNHCR magazine, *Refugees*, on the history of indigenous displacement during the colonizations of the western hemisphere. Since most of the indigenous representatives of the organization hold doctorate or law diplomas and teach at the university level, Indigenous World Association also specializes in developing curricula and materials for higher education. The organization was invited to consult with The Global Center (formerly Globalvision, directed by Daniel Schecter, which produced "South Africa Today" during the 1980s) on its video project "Rights and Wrongs Educational Media Project", and the co-director of the Indigenous World Association is an Advisory Board member. The organization also consulted in 1997 on the prize-winning, full-length documentary film, "Blacks and Jews", produced by Snitow-Kaufman Productions.

The Indigenous World Association was instrumental in establishing the International Year of the World's Indigenous People (1993) and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995–2004), and participated in all the activities generated thereby.

6. Institute for International Economic Cooperation and Development (ICEPS)

(Special status, granted 1993)

Aims and purposes of ICEPS

The Institute for International Economic Cooperation and Development (ICEPS) is a non-profit organization founded in 1966 and made up of prominent members from the world of politics, culture and business. In 1990 the Institute joined the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes as institutional member; in 1993 it was recognized as a non-governmental organization in consultative status (Category II) with the Economic and Social Council; in 1995 it was granted the status of internationalist body of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in accordance with Law No. 948/1982.

The goal of ICEPS is to promote the economic development of developing and emerging countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the new independent States, providing information, research, advice and technical assistance relating to international economic cooperation and development. ICEPS carries out cooperation activities and exchanges information with United Nations organizations: ECLAC, FAO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, United Nations Information Centre for Italy, Malta and the Holy See; and with other international organizations — i.e., World Bank, the Development Centre of OECD, the World Trade Organization, and Italian/European Research and Training Institutes.

Research, study and training activities

A project for convening a round table on environment and development was carried out on behalf of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Directorate General for Development Cooperation, from 1993 to 1994. The project was designed to spread information on the guidelines resulting from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), both at the national and international levels. The initiative also helped identify possible new guidelines for Italian cooperation, to be adopted for implementing initiatives related to environmental protection/impact and sustainable development. The activities were to draft the document "Environment and development: international cooperation" (first draft), describing methodologies adopted and initiatives started up by bilateral/multilateral cooperation

organizations, in the light of the guidelines resulting from UNCED; to organize and convene the International Round Table on Environment and Development; to present the document to the National Research Council in Rome; to prepare and distribute the second, updated draft of the document and the *Proceedings of the Round Table*.

In order to support the Latin American Ministries of Foreign Affairs, a programme relating to the training of Latin American Chancellery officials was carried out on behalf of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from 1993 to 1995. The objective was to improve the capability of Latin American diplomats to manage economic relations with Europe. The programme organized three meetings aimed at debating problems of economic relations and identified the diplomatic responses and political behaviours necessary to improve economic relations between Europe and Latin America. It completed two studies, in Spanish, "Foreign direct investment and technological transfer between Europe and Latin America", presented at the workshop for Latin American diplomats, held in Santiago de Chile on 27–28 June 1994; and "The European Union trade policy: the global strategy competition policy and the external security policy". Following the above initiatives, in 1996 ECLAC issued a document prepared in collaboration with ICEPS: "Economic relations between Latin America and the European Union: the role of external services" (edited in Spanish).

The study "Economic integration of developing countries in the global economy", including remarks and statistical data, was issued in April 1996, in time for the ninth session of UNCTAD (Midrand, South Africa, 27 April–11 May 1996).

The paper "Principles and actions of United Nations Conferences relating to food security" was prepared in conjunction with the activities promoted in Italy, as host country, to support the FAO World Food Summit (Rome, 13–17 November 1996) and distributed during the summit. It synthesizes the main guidelines resulting from previous United Nations world conferences relating to poverty eradication and food security and emergency measures for solving such problems.

"The European Union trade policy towards developing countries within multilateralism, regionalism and marginalism" was issued in December 1996. It was designed to analyse the present debate on the multilateral liberalization of trade and regional economic integration promoted by the European Union and the actions the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD intended to undertake to create an international economic setting oriented towards the economic integration of less industrialized countries.

Organization of conferences and participation in United Nations events

The International Round Table on Environment and Development was organized by ICEPS. It was held in Rome on 17 and 18 January 1994 at the National Research Council. It was attended by representatives of the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, OECD, the European Union, the Italian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of the Environment, non-governmental organizations, environmental organizations, and the academic and business world.

The workshop for Latin American diplomats, held in Santiago de Chile, 27–28 June 1994, within the framework of the programme referred to above, was attended by representatives of the Latin American Ministries of Foreign Affairs and European experts. It focused on foreign direct investments and technological transfers.

A seminar to present the second draft of the paper entitled "Environment and development: international cooperation" and the *Proceedings of the Round Table on Environment and Development: Summary and Results* was held at ICEPS on 20 October 1994. It involved institutions, organizations, non-governmental organizations etc., interested in subjects related to environmental protection/impact, sustainable development and international cooperation, so as to identify possible follow-up activities.

ICEPS participated in the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995. A representative of ICEPS took part directly in the debate and got in touch with other international organizations and non-governmental organizations with which to start collaboration activities and collected all the documentation made available during the Summit.

On 6 April 1995, ICEPS organized a conference in cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, for Italy, Malta and the Holy See, to present the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, and distribute to the participants the Italian version, translated by ICEPS, of the following documents: Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development; "An agenda for development: development and international economic cooperation" (report of the Secretary-General to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, 6 May 1994); "Analysis of the main issues to be developed at the World Summit for Social Development and actions to be adopted to reach the Summit's objectives, in conformity with the General

Assembly resolution 47/92 (report of the Secretary-General). The Conference was chaired by Jacques Baudot, Coordinator of the World Summit for Social Development, and attended by Nadia Younes, Director of the United Nations Information Centre, for Italy, Malta and the Holy See, Giorgio Testori, head of the Italian delegation to the Summit, and other prominent representatives of the Italian political and diplomatic world. On this occasion ICEPS Report No.1 (April 1995) was issued containing "Main questions emerging during the World Summit for Social Development".

ICEPS participated as observer in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (FAO, Rome, Italy, 29 September–10 October 1997), and attended the NGO Forum, convened on 6 October, during the event. On that occasion ICEPS delivered to FAO for distribution "Coordination of international aid within IGADD as an instrument for coordinating development policy in East Africa", issued by ICEPS in 1992.

Information activities

Since 1994, ICEPS has helped to spread information on the main activities implemented and planned by the Economic and Social Council, and, in general, by the United Nations system among actors with which ICEPS maintains regular relations and among institutions interested, at the national level, in United Nations activities but without access to adequate and updated means of information.

ICEPS has been collecting United Nations documentation on a regular basis in order to set up a United Nations archive of documents on various subjects, available on United Nations Web sites and forwarded particularly by the Economic and Social Council, UNCTAD, ECE, and other departments/programmes/agencies. This has made it possible easily to get access to United Nations information and documents and has spread information on United Nations activities/initiatives/events among institutions concerned and ICEPS members. The archive includes the documentation of ICEPS' library. It is used for organizing meetings and drafting studies. The objective is easy and immediate access to updated documentation/information concerning the specific United Nations agencies, conferences, programmes and commissions with which ICEPS maintains regular relations.

Since April 1995, the Institute has been publishing the *ICEPS Report*, a monthly newsletter focusing on the main events and activities planned and/or implemented by the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Union and other international organizations, and on the most interesting subjects related to international cooperation. ICEPS receives and collects, on a regular basis, updated documentation on resolutions, meetings, world summits, projects and initiatives undertaken by the United Nations and other international organizations, which is used in preparing the monthly *Report*, distributed free of charge to institutes, actors and agents concerned. The objective is to foster at the national level the dissemination of information related to activities of international organizations, particularly the United Nations, and deal with the main subjects covering international cooperation. Among the issues of interest to the United Nations are the following:

April 1995, No.1: Main questions resulting from the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995;

August 1995, No. 5: Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 4–15 September 1995;

October 1995, No. 7: A proposal to reform the United Nations;

January 1996, No. 1: FAO commitment to World Food Security and poverty reduction; February–March 1996, No. 2: Security and cooperation policy in the Mediterranean, the United Nations and Italian commitment;

June 1996, No. 3: Globalization and liberalization: the reform of UNCTAD; January–February 1997, No. 1: The World Food Summit and the reform of FAO;

April 1997, No. 2: Survey on United Nations perspectives. Interview of the Secretary-General of ICEPS on 5 March 1997, at the Foreign Affairs and Community Commission of the Parliament.

The *Reports* are distributed to non-governmental organizations; the Italian permanent representation to the United Nations, the United Nations Information Centre in Rome; research and development cooperation institutes; the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; commissions of foreign affairs of the Italian Parliament, ICEPS members.

Activities to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

The United Nations document "Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations: origins, milestones and achievements", issued in one volume in September 1995, was translated into Italian, published and distributed. The document was meant to inform Italian public opinion and institutions/organizations concerned about the overall activities planned to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary.

An international conference, Security and Cooperation Policy in the Mediterranean, the United Nations and Italian commitment, was held in Siracusa (Sicily, Italy) on 9 March 1996, within the framework of the activities implemented with the support of the National Committee to Commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. The objective was to identify new guidelines for Italian foreign and security policy in the Mediterranean Basin, starting from a wide integration with the actions of United Nations agencies and their reform, considering the new policy of the European Union relating to the establishment of a new Euro-Mediterranean Partenariat. Following the conference, the proceedings were prepared and distributed.

7. Institute of Cultural Affairs International

(Special status, granted 1985)

The Institute of Cultural Affairs International is a non-governmental organization concerned with the human factor in world development. The Institute of Cultural Affairs International assists the activities and operations of national member Institutes in 28 nations. The Institute has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The Institute of Cultural Affairs International conducts programmes in partnership with government, business, and the non-governmental sectors to facilitate the development of people, communities, and organizations which contribute to the growth of peace, economic and social development, and civil society.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

The organization's representative attended the World Summit for Social Development, 6–12 March 1995, in Copenhagen, Denmark. The organization's representative attended the Fourth World Conference on Women, 4–15 September 1995, in Beijing, China. The organization's main representative for New York attended the forty-ninth and the fiftieth DPI/NGO Conference Programmes, 10–12 September 1996, and 10–12 September 1997 in New York.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

The organization's main representative in New York assisted the UNDP/Programme Development and Support Division in designing and facilitating a retreat on operationalizing sustainable human development. The organization's main representative in New York worked with the UNDP/Department of Personnel to design and develop curriculum and a training manual for the "programme approach" to development. The organization's main representative in New York worked with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and the mission in Lagos, Nigeria, to design and deliver training in the "programme approach" to development for UNDP and governmental representatives from Nigeria, Ghana, and Sierra Leone. The organization's main representative in New York worked with UNDP to deliver staff training for the Management Skills Mirror Programme for UNDP general staff.

8. Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)

(Special status, granted 1989)

Introduction

The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) seeks to be the primary international professional association, organized on a worldwide basis, dedicated to the promotion and development of the practice of internal auditing. It is committed to providing, on an international scale, comprehensive professional development activities, standards for the practice of internal auditing, and certification; researching, disseminating, and promoting to its members and to the public throughout the world knowledge and information concerning internal auditing, internal control, and related subjects; establishing meetings worldwide in order to educate members and others as to the practice of internal auditing as it exists in various countries throughout the world; bringing together internal auditors from all countries to share information and experiences in internal auditing and promoting education in the field of internal auditing.

The IIA motto is "Progress through sharing".

To accomplish its mission, the Institute has four primary objectives: to be a recognized authority; to be an acknowledged leader; to be a principal educator; and to be a professional organization (effectively using the skills of volunteers and staff).

IIA provides the basis of the profession of internal auditing in standards for the professional practice of internal auditing; code of ethics; statement of responsibilities; and certification (Certified Internal Auditor — CIA).

Membership growth

The organizational components of IIA are chapters or national institutes. National institutes are self-sustaining organizations with anywhere from 300 to 4,000 members. The greatest membership growth has taken place in the past few years with the addition of many new affiliates outside North America. Membership grew from 48,410 in 1992 to 63,000 at the end of 1997. Approximately one half of the members are in North America (United States, Canada and the Caribbean). The other one half are from outside North America.

The following new chapters/national institutes were established in 1994–1997 (* Indicates creation or change of status to national Institute): Costa Rica, Ghana, Nicaragua (1994); IIA Germany* (1995); Algeria, Chile, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Karachi (Pakistan), Senegal, Sucre (Bolivia), Turkey, U.S. Pacific (1996); IIA Austria*, Botswana, Caracas (Venezuela), Fiji, Greece, Guatemala, Mississippi Gulf Coast (United States), Salem (United States), IIA Thailand*, Poland (1997).

IIA activities held in conjunction with the United Nations or United Nations agencies

Between 1995 and 1997, IIA presented three training sessions on communication techniques, the internal auditor as consultant, fraud prevention, and operational auditing to auditors at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy. In January 1997, IIA presented a training session for auditors at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. In April 1997, IIA presented a training session for auditors at the International Labour Office in Geneva, Switzerland. In September 1997, Karl Paschke, Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, United Nations Secretariat, was guest speaker at a joint meeting of professional auditors and accountants, co-sponsored by the IIA and hosted by the World Bank.

IIA participation in United Nations meetings

Since 1994, IIA leaders have participated at each of the annual meetings of the United Nations auditors.

Other

In 1994, UNDP adopted the IIA *Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*. These *Standards* are being used by most of the United Nations agencies.

9. Inter-African Committee (IAC) on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children

(Special status, granted 1993)

The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children is an African non-governmental organization set up in 1984 with the aim of combating harmful traditional practices, particularly female genital mutilation (FGM) but also childhood marriage and nutritional taboos, while at the same time promoting positive traditional practices. Since its creation, IAC has set up national committees (affiliates) in 26 African countries. These national committees function in most cases as national non-governmental organizations with a varying number of members, ranging from 10 to more than 100, composed of health professionals, representatives of national and international non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies, and concerned individuals.

Through its national committees IAC works on the grassroots level, implementing programmes of information and education, training of trainers, reorientation of circumcisers, operational research etc. Funding is received mainly from United Nations agencies, European Governments and international non-governmental organizations.

In addition to consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, IAC enjoys observer status with the Organization of African Unity and official relationship with the World Health Organization. An agreement of understanding was signed between IAC and the Economic Commission for Africa in 1985. In 1995, IAC received the United Nations Population Award.

IAC representatives took part in the following United Nations meetings:

(a) *1994*. UNICEF Inter-Regional Consultation on the Girl Child, India, 10–16 February. A presentation was made by the IAC President on eradication of harmful traditional practices for the empowerment of girls; NGO Consultation, New York, 3–4 March; Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 7–8 March; Second United Nations Regional Seminar on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, Sri Lanka, 4–8 July. IAC presented a paper on violence against women as a traditional practice; International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September. IAC delivered a statement on harmful traditional practices at the plenary

session and organized a workshop on FGM; NGO Forum and the Fifth African Regional Conference on Women, Dakar, 12–23 November. IAC organized two workshops at the NGO Forum and the IAC President made a statement relating FGM to violence against women at the main conference.

(b) *1995*. Thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, March. The IAC President made a statement on traditional practices as forms of violence against women; World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March. IAC organized a workshop on FGM in the western world; Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September. IAC organized a workshop at the NGO Forum on harmful traditional practices. The IAC President took part as a panellist in the UNICEF special celebration of girls.

(c) *1996*. UNESCO Conference on Violence and Women, Paris, 4 March. IAC presented a paper on violence against women; UNFPA Consultation Meeting on FGM, Addis Ababa, 27–29 March.

(d) *1997*. WHO Consultation with non-governmental organizations on the New Global Policy, Geneva, 2–3 May; Fourth International Conference on Health Promotion, Jakarta, 21–25 July; UNICEF Sub-Regional Consultation on Female Genital Mutilation, Eritrea, 24–27 September; WHO Technical Consultation on Female Genital Mutilation, Geneva, 15–17 October.

IAC also regularly attended the meetings of the OAU Council of Ministers and the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

In addition, during these four years, IAC took an active part in the meetings of the following bodies: WHO Executive Board, World Health Assembly, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Status of Women, Commission on Human Rights, Special Committee of International NGOs on Human rights, and various NGO working groups based in Geneva.

IAC representatives were invited to take part in a number of international conferences related to women and health, making statements and presenting relevant background documents.

In 1994, IAC organized its third Regional Conference on Traditional Practices (11–15 April, Addis Ababa), under the theme "Harmful traditional practices: the way ahead". In 1997, the fourth IAC Regional Conference on Traditional Practices was held (Dakar, Senegal, 17–23 November), in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Africa. These two meetings were attended by a large number of IAC members and other partners as well as by observers from concerned United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations.

Since its inception, IAC has been advocating for the implementation of various conventions related to the health of women and children and to all forms of violence against women, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It has been actively involved in the drafting of resolutions and declarations pertaining to the protection of women and children against harmful traditional practices — e.g., Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/251, on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, the Vienna Declaration (on human rights), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, World Health Assembly resolutions WHA46.18 and WHA47.10, and the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action. IAC works closely with the United Nations special rapporteur on traditional practices, Halima E. Warzazi, and with the United Nations special rapporteur on violence, Radhika Coomaraswamy.

IAC has been receiving financial contributions from UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank towards its activities. UNFPA initiated and funded a training seminar for IAC members in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in July 1995. In 1997, a joint IAC/UNICEF evaluation project was carried out in four African countries, funded by UNICEF. In consultation with IAC, UNHCR has set out a policy on harmful traditional practices and issued guidelines for its field staff to eradicate these practices, taking into account the highly sensitive nature of this issue.

10. Inter-American Housing Union (UNIAPRAVI)

(Special status, granted 1989)

The Inter-American Housing Union (UNIAPRAVI) is an international, non-profit, non-governmental organization that brings together public and private housing finance institutions in the Americas. It was founded in Caracas in 1964 and has 124 member institutions (including savings and loan associations, housing banks, mortgage banks, multi-purpose banks with a mortgage portfolio, housing funds, housing Ministries and Secretariats, construction companies, housing developers and so on) in 21 countries in the Americas. Its principal goal is to promote the strengthening of housing finance and promotion

institutions in the region, including governmental bodies responsible for defining housing policy, with a view to stimulating mobilization of resources for housing and access to housing in the Americas.

The work carried out by UNIAPRAVI during the period under review has had as its main objective the consolidation of UNIAPRAVI as an *information centre and source of ideas* concerning housing policy and finance. Thanks to this effort, UNIAPRAVI has achieved widespread recognition in the Americas as an organization that brings together and encourages the exchange of experience between the housing finance systems of the various countries and promotes interaction with the governmental authorities responsible for defining housing policy and the legal and institutional frameworks for development in the housing sector. Towards that end, it offers a range of specialized activities and services such as organizing international meetings, carrying out studies, providing training and technical assistance, producing and distributing publications, compiling and disseminating statistics and compiling and collecting specialized documentation.

The activities carried out by UNIAPRAVI are intended to meet the new policy and operational requirements of housing sector institutions with a view to enhancing the role of the housing sector as a factor for economic growth and social development. The central, underlying idea in this regard is that the sectoral development model must be compatible with the overall economic development model. Accordingly the aim is to encourage market mechanisms and private-sector investment in the housing sector while at the same time strengthening the role of the State as subsidiary facilitator with a view to ensuring equality of opportunity in order to achieve housing solutions for all segments of the population, including the poorest. Thus the point is to influence the implementation of housing policy so as to ensure that the housing sector becomes a factor promoting higher growth, job creation, greater market integration and poverty relief, all of which issues are on the agenda of the United Nations.

From a thematic point of view, and bearing in mind the increasing globalization of economies, in various forums UNIAPRAVI has put forward possible methods and areas for foreign investment in housing finance in Latin America, including debt issuance, purchase of shares in mortgage institutions, investment in technology and securitization of mortgage portfolios. In effect, the creation of secondary markets in mortgages is a subject to which increasing attention is being paid in the housing finance sector in the Latin American countries, where strong legislative, institutional and enabling initiatives are being taken towards that end. Indeed, various Latin American countries have been implementing or enhancing this mechanism.

Access to housing for the lowest-income sectors is another key factor in the housing policy agendas of the Governments in the region. Thus, direct housing subsidy programmes are being either consolidated or established as a key mechanism for expanding access to housing for the poorest groups, for whom the profit-oriented workings of the market do not provide enough options. A number of Latin American countries already have programmes of this kind, which are producing very satisfactory results, whereas other countries are adopting specific measures to implement what was already a policy decision. Indeed, at an international seminar held by UNIAPRAVI in the Dominican Republic in July 1997, the Dominican President announced that a programme of direct housing subsidies was about to be implemented in that country.

To ease access to housing for the low-income sectors, the State must also develop and enhance the mechanisms for the legal regularization of spontaneous and informal settlements. This central idea has been repeatedly put forward by UNIAPRAVI, given that in some Latin American countries over 50 per cent of urban properties and 90 per cent of rural properties are not covered by formal title deeds and therefore such housing and land cannot be used as security for purposes of obtaining a mortgage. Regularizing legal possession of this significant housing stock could create an enormous opportunity for expansion in the housing finance sector. In that connection, some Latin American countries already have large-scale Government-sponsored programmes for issuing title deeds and registering informal premises.

UNIAPRAVI believes that active participation by the private sector in housing development and finance is a key factor for the viability and effectiveness of housing policy. Therefore, the public sector can play a catalytic role by helping to promote stable and profitable housing finance systems, the introduction of new products that satisfactorily meet demand, the introduction and adoption of banking regulations and, most of all, by promoting a housing policy model that takes the long-term view and that is based on a partnership between the public and private sectors.

We should like to draw attention to UNIAPRAVI's active participation in all the Regional Meetings of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, a forum for which the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is the secretariat; this participation has enabled our organization to enhance its

interaction with those authorities in order thereby to provide leadership in ensuring dissemination and implementation of new initiatives and norms for the sector, targeted on countries in the region which have emerging housing systems.

Generally speaking, these approaches and ideas have been put forward in the various countries in which UNIAPRAVI's ideas have become established. They have been disseminated through three main channels: firstly, through international meetings organized, promoted or attended by UNIAPRAVI; secondly, through documents and publications prepared by UNIAPRAVI; and, thirdly, through the provision of technical assistance and advice requested by members. This has enabled UNIAPRAVI to channel the knowledge and experience of the countries that are more developed in the housing and housing finance area towards countries which are relatively less developed but which are making major efforts to overcome the housing shortage afflicting them.

11. Inter-American Statistical Institute

(Special status, granted 1952)

Objectives

The Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) is a professional organization whose purpose is to promote statistical development in the American region. It seeks the following objectives: development and strengthening of the statistical profession; promotion and dissemination of advances in statistical theory and methods; improvement in the methodology for production of both governmental and non-governmental statistics; promotion of measures aimed at improving the comparability and availability of economic and social statistics among the nations of the region; and cooperation with national and international organizations in activities aimed at statistical improvement in the region.

The Institute was created on 12 May 1940, and since 1950 maintains relations of cooperation and coordination with the Organization of American States (OAS). The Institute is an affiliated member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), another non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Membership in the Institute is individual (238), institutional (12 affiliated members), and ex-officio (34).

Participation in the activities of the Economic and Social Council

The Secretariat of the Institute regularly submitted basic information for the preparation of reports destined for the sessions of the Statistical Commission.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

The secretariat of the Institute provided assistance in 1994 to the Statistics Division of FAO in developing the bases for the organization of a new group on agricultural statistics for the Latin American region, to replace the one that had been jointly maintained by the Institute and FAO for more than three decades.

The Technical Secretary attended the meetings of Directors of Statistics of the Americas convoked by ECLAC and held in Santiago, Chile, in October 1994 and October 1996.

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Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Bahá'í International Community

(Special consultative status granted 1970)

Introduction

The Bahá'í International Community, with over five million members from all strata of society organized as approximately 17,000 local communities and 175 national and regional communities, is committed to peace and engaged in a wide range of activities. These activities include but are not limited to fostering grass-roots participation in sustainable development initiatives, advancing the status of women, eliminating racism, and promoting and protecting human rights. Its affiliates worldwide support the goals of the Charter of the United Nations, participate in United Nations special programmes, and celebrate United Nations decades, years and days. The Community maintains offices and paid full-time staff at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. Volunteer Bahá'í representatives serve at the United Nations Office at Vienna; at UNEP at Nairobi; at ECA at Addis Ababa; at ECLAC at Santiago; at ESCAP at Bangkok; and at FAO in Rome.

Global conferences

The Community participated fully in the series of United Nations conferences on pressing global issues — the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo), the 1995 World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen), the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing), and the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul). It contributed to conference preparations, NGO preparatory activities, the conferences themselves and NGO forums. It is now promoting implementation of the resulting global action plans. Bahá'ís from all over the world attended NGO forums in record numbers (over 250 from 40 countries at Copenhagen, 500 from 60 countries at Huairou, China, and 150 from 30 countries at Istanbul). Moreover, a number of individuals contributed several months of volunteer service to United Nations efforts to organize parallel NGO activities.

Ongoing work of the United Nations

Meanwhile, the Community continued its substantive involvement in the ongoing work of the United Nations. It monitored the main committees of the General Assembly and annual sessions of the Council, its commissions, subcommissions, committees and working groups, contributing as appropriate. Commissions monitored included the Commissions on Human Rights (and Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities), the Status of Women, Sustainable Development, Human Settlements, and Social Development, as well as the regional commissions. The Community also participated in a number of special meetings sponsored by the ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank. From January 1994 to December 1997, the Community attended over 150 United Nations-sponsored meetings, contributing more than 80 statements and reports. Contributions in key areas of interest are described briefly below.

Advancement of women

For the International Year of the Family (1994), the Community initiated and co-sponsored with UNICEF and UNIFEM an international symposium on strategies for creating violence-free families. Its recommendations were widely circulated, and the symposium was replicated in the Caribbean. For the Beijing Conference, the Community served on the Facilitating Committee for the NGO Forum at Huairou, conducted workshops at preparatory meetings and the Forum, published a booklet of position papers and case studies on issues identified in the Platform for Action, and presented a statement to the Conference. The initial phase of the UNIFEM-funded Bahá'í project "Traditional media as change agent", which successfully engaged men in improving the status of women in Cameroon, Bolivia and Malaysia, was concluded, and a video and training manual were produced. The Community continued as Convener of "Advocates for African food security: lessening the burden on women" — a coalition of NGOs, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations calling attention to the critical role of women farmers in feeding Africa. In 1996, the United Nations included reports on Bahá'í projects in Cameroon and Zambia in a publication prepared for the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. Other reports and statements during this period addressed women's human rights, violence against women, the family, children and the community, girl children, sexual exploitation of children, educating women and girls, involving women in decision-making, the role of religion in the advancement of women and women's contributions to food security.

Environment, development, education and health

The Community participated in processes preceding and including the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, the 1994 Global Conference on Small Island Developing States (Bridgetown, Barbados), the World Food

Summit (Rome), and the Second Biennial World Youth Forum. The Community served on the Planning Bureau for the Forum. It participated in the collective consultation of NGOs on literacy and education for all; the World Health Assembly (Geneva), with its accompanying technical discussions; the Global Forum 1994 (on the theme "Cities and sustainable development" (Manchester, United Kingdom)); the World Business Forum (Habitat II); and an international conference on globalization and citizenship sponsored by UNRISD. It monitored annual sessions of the UNICEF Executive Board and annual NGO/DPI conferences in New York. Following key conferences, affiliates were encouraged to support national and local implementation of conference declarations and action plans. Statements during the period under review recommended changes to the Habitat II draft agenda, and addressed a global strategy for social development, a development paradigm for the twenty-first century, the role of religion in social development, global prosperity and sustainable communities in an integrating world.

Human rights and refugees

During annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Community contributed to deliberations on a wide range of issues. Both written and oral statements advocated the protection of minorities; the right to development; the rights of women, the child and the girl child; freedom of religion; and human rights education. They decried the sale of children; child pornography and prostitution; extreme poverty; violence against women; and racism. The Community participated in working groups on indigenous populations, minorities, the right to development, the rights of the child and agenda reform. In response to requests, it submitted proposals on draft instruments to the Human Rights Defenders Working Group, reports to the Human Rights Committee and Committee on the Rights of the Child, and documents to country and thematic rapporteurs of the Commission. The Community also attended annual sessions of the UNHCR Executive Committee, and participated in consultations between UNHCR and its NGO operational partners.

NGO community work

An active participant in United Nations/NGO activities, the Community addressed the Council's Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with NGOs Committee on NGOs. In New York, it chaired NGO committees on the status of women (1994–1995), human rights (1994–1997), and the family (1994–1996), and the CONGO task force on United Nations reform and increasing access to the United Nations (1996 to present). At Geneva, it chaired the NGO working group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1994–1995). It was Secretary of the CONGO Board in New York, and held offices on NGO committees on UNICEF and the status of women (New York), human rights (Geneva) and the family (Vienna), as well as the CONGO subcommittee on freedom of religion, conscience and belief (Geneva). For the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the Community provided a 35–panel exhibit displayed at San Francisco and Geneva; published "Turning point for all nations", a proposal for United Nations restructuring; and hosted a seminar on the subject attended by United Nations officials and one head of State. It also participated in more than 45 special NGO meetings in support of United Nations objectives.

Information activities

One Country, the Community's newsletter, is published quarterly in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and German. It reaches some 30,000 readers in more than 170 countries. The creation of a Web page (http://www.onecountry.org) and an e-mail text distribution service (1country-request@bcca.org) have extended its circulation. *One Country* has reported on all major United Nations conferences held during the last four years, highlighting related NGO activities and Bahá'í participation. *One Country* has also monitored various human rights events and trends, highlighted spiritually based social and economic development efforts, and addressed in its book reviews and editorials such issues as women's equality, globalization, world government and sustainable development.

2. Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)

(Special consultative status granted 1952)

Introduction

Founded in 1951, Caritas Internationalis (CI) is an international confederation of 146 autonomous national member organizations in 194 countries, directed by its statutes to spread charity and social justice in the world. The aims of the organization include information-sharing, coordination and representation among Catholic-sponsored charitable, social service and development efforts. Every four years, the national member organizations of CI gather in its General Assembly to make administrative decisions about the confederation and to formulate a joint work plan. The most recent General Assembly was held in Rome, from 8 to 13 May 1995; its theme was "Justice and solidarity, path to life". On that occasion, the following new National Caritas organizations were affiliated to CI: Iraq, Eritrea, Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. The major issues selected for reflection and action during the 1995–1999 CI mandate included the globalization of the economy (causes of poverty and injustice), the promotion of reconciliation and non-violence, migrants-refugees-displaced persons, and response to emergency situations.

Participation in Council and other United Nations meetings/conferences in New York

CI participated in:

(a) General Assembly sessions (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997);

(b) Preparatory Committee meetings for the World Summit for Social Development;

(c) Thirty-fourth through thirty-sixth sessions of the Commission for Social Development;

(d) UNDPI/NGO annual conferences (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997);

(e) Preparatory Committee for Habitat II;

(f) Thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

(g) Annual sessions of the UNICEF Executive Board;

(h) Regular NGO committee meetings (family, sustainable development, human rights, ageing/youth, disarmament, women);

(i) Fiftieth through fifty-third sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. CI submitted written statements and joint oral statements at those meetings on the situation of internally displaced persons and international debt;

(j) Fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions of the Human Rights Committee and sixtieth session of the Human Rights Committee;

(k) Preparatory meetings of the UNHCR Executive Committee, with NGOs and UNHCR. CI regularly presented a joint statement at those meetings;

(l) Council sessions;

(m) UNCTAD special preparatory session (11–15 December 1995);

(n) Review conference of the States Parties to the convention on prohibitions on the use of conventional weapons (15–19 January 1996);

(o) Regional UNHCR conference to address the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and other forms of involuntary displacement in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and relevant neighbouring States (30 and 31 May 1996);

(p) Forty-sixth through forty-ninth sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

(q) Expert seminar on the human rights dimensions of population transfer, including the implantation of settlers and settlements (17–21 February 1997);

(r) Sixth through tenth sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

(s) Sixteenth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(t) Forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions of the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

(u) Seminar on immigration, racism and racial discrimination (5–9 May 1997);

(v) Thirty-seventh through fortieth sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(w) Inter-sessional meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(x) European regional preparatory meeting for the Ninth United Nations Crime Congress (1995);

(y) Third through sixth sessions of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(z) Preparatory conference for the 1994 world forum on the role of NGOs in drug demand reduction (24 and 25 May 1994);

(aa) Review conference of States Parties to convention on "inhumane" weapons (25 September–13 October 1995);

(bb) World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (25–29 November 1996);

(cc) Twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth UNESCO General Conferences;

(dd) One hundred forty-sixth session of the UNESCO Executive Board;

(ee) Twelfth UNESCO/NGO consultation on literacy and education for all (5–9 September 1995);

(ff) Colloquium on the World Summit for Social Development (14 December 1994);

(gg) Celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of UNESCO (16 November 1995);

(hh) International forum on the rights of the child (27 November 1995);

(ii) Fifth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the World Decade for Cultural Development (21–25 April 1997);

(jj) Twentieth through twenty-third sessions of the Committee on World Food Security;

(kk) Twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth FAO Conferences;

(ll) Meetings of the FAO Council;

(mm) Thirty-seventh through fortieth meetings of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes;

(nn) First through third WFP Executive Board meetings;

(oo) WFP/NGO meeting on food aid (10 November 1995);

(pp) Sessions of the IFAD Governing Council;

(qq) IFAD conference on hunger and poverty (Brussels, 20 and 21 November 1995);

(rr) FAO fiftieth anniversary observance, October 1995, Quebec;

(ss) International Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (Yokohama, 23–27 May 1994);

(tt) International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 5–13 September 1994);

(uu) World Summit for Social Development (6–12 March 1995). CI prepared a position paper, in collaboration with Coopération internationale pour le développement et la solidarité (CIDSE), in response to the draft declaration and programme of action and on the follow-up to the Summit;

(vv) Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4–15 September 1995);

(ww) United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996). CI and CIDSE prepared a position paper which was circulated to official delegations;

(xx) World Food Summit (Rome, 13–17 November 1996). CI and CIDSE prepared a joint contribution for the Summit entitled "Hunger undermines all dignity", and organized, during the NGO Forum, a workshop on the theme "Code of conduct and global convention on food security".

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

CI actively participated in the UNHCR/NGO Partnership in Action in the process and preparation of an NGO agreement. WFP and CI through its national member organizations, have established worldwide relationships in development and emergency food aid operations. WFP and CI member organizations pursue mutually shared objectives in the field of development and humanitarian assistance, and have complementary capacities which can be enhanced through closer cooperation. In a cooperation agreement of 16 December 1997, UNESCO and CI have decided and agreed to join forces in a spirit of mutual cooperation with a view to achieving their shared ideal. Each CI member may adapt the agreement to local or regional circumstances with the designated UNESCO representative. A cooperation agreement with UNAIDS is currently being prepared.

Other relevant activities

CI participated in the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development by lobbying for the implementation of the Plan of Action. CI continues to maintain delegates at all major United Nations bodies. The CI strategic plan, completed in November 1997, also targets United Nations institutions as major allies in the struggle against poverty.

3. Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale

(Special consultative status granted 1989)

The institutional aim of CNPDS is the promotion of the study and implementation of a system of crime prevention and social control. This task is fulfilled through in-depth analyses, pioneering research and debates, conducted with a multidisciplinary methodology, on the process of social and economic change in contemporary societies and of the demands addressed to political, legal, judicial and social professions. In so doing, the Centro has been performing an increasingly supportive action to the United Nations in the attempt to achieve common aims in crime prevention and criminal justice while preserving fundamental human values and respecting basic human rights.

CNPDS has been the seat of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC) of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme since its establishment in 1990; of the International Committee for Coordination (ICC) among the four major non-governmental organizations active in the crime field, International Association of Penal Law (IAPL), International Society of Social Defence and Humane Criminal Policy (ISSD), International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation (IPPF) and International Society for Criminology (ISC), since its constitution in 1982; and of the general secretariat of ISSD since 1966.

During the period under review, CNPDS continued its multifaceted research activities through its standing committees, active mainly in the legal, economic and sociological fields. The initiatives taken at the international level, in close cooperation with the United Nations, are described below.

CNPDS contributed to the scientific preparation of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, 1995), through the organization on 15–17 April 1994, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, Italy of the eighth joint colloquium on criminal justice and police systems, on the theme "Management and improvement of police and other law enforcement agencies, prosecution, courts and corrections, and the role of lawyers", jointly convened with the four above-mentioned organizations, under the auspices of the United Nations. The report of the colloquium was submitted to the Ninth Congress.

From 17 to 21 June 1994, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS organized jointly with ISPAC an international conference on the theme "Preventing and controlling money laundering and the use of the proceeds of crime: a global approach", in cooperation with the Government of Italy, under the auspices of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Secretariat. Its final report was officially submitted to the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime (Naples, November 1994) and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly.

On 20 and 21 March 1995, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS promoted and organized a conference on the theme "The target family: the image of the family in media productions", in cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat, in observance of the International Year of the Family.

In the framework of the Ninth United Nations Congress, CNPDS organized two ancillary meetings:

(a) One 3 May 1995, a meeting on the theme "Migration and crime: a framework for discussion", which represented the first phase of an in-depth study further carried out through an international conference on the same subject held in 1996;

(b) On 4 May 1995, a meeting on the theme "Role of the public prosecutor in criminal justice, according to the different constitutional systems".

On 15 and 16 October 1995, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS organized with ISPAC, in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Vienna, an international conference on the theme "Cooperation against crime: the future mobilization of the international community", to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The high number of selected speakers from all the regions of the world gave a broad picture of the activities performed by the United Nations in the fight against crime.

From 30 November through 3 December 1995, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS organized, under the auspices of UNESCO, an international seminar on the theme "memories and identities: perspectives in the process of change".

On 5–8 October 1996, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS organized with ISPAC an international conference on the theme "Migration and crime: global and regional problems and responses", in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNICRI.

On 28–30 November 1996, at Lecce, Italy, CNPDS organized, jointly with ISSD, in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Thirteenth International Congress on Social Defence on the theme "Social defence, corruption and the protection of public administration and the independence of justice". The proceedings will be used in a volume which — it is hoped — will contribute to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/59 on action against corruption.

On 4–6 October 1997, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS organized with ISPAC, in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Vienna an international conference on the theme "Violent crime and conflicts: towards early warning and prevention mechanisms".

On 28–30 November 1997, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS organized, under the auspices of UNESCO and in cooperation with the Italian National Commission for UNESCO, an international seminar on the theme "The school system: cultural pluralism of processes of economic and technological globalization".

CNPDS regularly attended, with its own delegation chaired by its Secretary-General, the annual sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Control at Vienna, and submitted statements on the activities being performed at the international level.

CNPDS has backed the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, giving its organizational support, jointly with ISPAC, to UNICRI for the tenth through twelfth programme network coordination meetings, held at Courmayeur Mont Blanc in 1995, 1996, and 1997.

Through ISPAC, in July 1997, the United Nations Office at Vienna entrusted CNPDS with the production of a study report on the reversal of the burden of proof regarding the apparently illicit derivation of profits and assets in the context of the fight against the criminal economy. The research is being conducted in close cooperation with the Department of Legal Sciences of the University of Venice, on the basis of extensive research, taking into account the normative framework, related to the prevailing legal systems, and examining difficulties arising from and implications related to the constitutional, penal and administrative regimes of countries from all the regions of the world.

4. Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC)

(Special consultative status granted 1972)

Introductory statement and aims and purposes of the organization

The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) aims to incorporate the principles of human ecology into the practices of development. Those principles focus on an understanding of the relationship of individuals and communities with their natural, social and man-made environments. Through its work, CHEC aims to ensure that the potential for community and national development is achieved without jeopardizing environments and cultures. CHEC's purpose is to bring together government ministers and villagers, scientists and artists, economists, health workers, teachers and religious practitioners, in common action towards individual and global ecological well-being.

The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council was granted special consultative status with the Council in 1972, providing the first formal Commonwealth representation in the United Nations. Until 1995, CHEC remained the sole unofficial voice and action of the Commonwealth in the United Nations, working consistently with Governments, while strengthening institutions and non-governmental organizations, and improving the knowledge base and living conditions at the grass-roots level.

CHEC has played an active participatory role in most of the major United Nations global conferences since the early 1970s, with human ecology introducing Commonwealth professionals, international and national NGOs and Governments to the connections between social, economic and ecological systems and human development. That collaboration has made an organic link between the Commonwealth and the United Nations, whereby the Commonwealth has absorbed United Nations global concepts and the United Nations has gained from the functional flexibility of the Commonwealth, its cultural unity and political and networking institutions.

Through its linkages with UNCED and Agenda 21 and the post-UNCED global forums held at Manchester, United Kingdom (1993 and 1994), CHEC set up a project implementation committee in 1994 to increase institutional strengthening and extend practical programmes. That catalytic framework brought together a number of Commonwealth professional, NGOs and government representatives, aided by UNEP and Habitat and helped by its ties with the Commission on Sustainable Development. Representatives of those bodies participated in the global conferences.

Over the past four years, CHEC's partnerships have widened to include a sustainable cities programme linking local government and community organizations across the Commonwealth. New national chapters have formed in New Zealand/Oceania and Guyana, and also human ecological initiatives have developed outside the Commonwealth, for example developing eco-tourism in Bali, Indonesia, through higher education exchanges.

Participation in the Council, its subsidiary bodies, and conferences and meetings

In September 1995, CHEC convened a workshop at the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing. This was promoted and developed by a committee involving the official Commonwealth machinery — the Commonwealth secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation and a number of Commonwealth professional associations. The theme was "Humanizing sustainability: women in human ecology and environmentally sustainable development", and it enabled CHEC and Commonwealth interests to take a fresh look at projects involving many thousands of women over a quarter of a century, and to strengthen integration. The workshop was oversubscribed, and was sponsored by members of national CHEC chapters: CHEC-Pakistan, CHEC-India, CHEC-Kenya and CHEC-Australia.

At the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994), CHEC's Executive Vice-Chair addressed the Plenary on human ecology developments in small island States. This enabled CHEC to link up with the Barbadian Deputy Prime Minister/Minister for Foreign Affairs. The cooperation was continued in CHEC sessions held during the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting at Auckland, New Zealand.

In June 1996, CHEC led a Commonwealth delegation representing Governments and NGOs to Habitat II at Istanbul. There, the CHEC head of delegation was invited by the Secretary-General of the Conference to address a plenary session and to provide a contribution to a major additional meeting of conference delegates (run by the Secretary-General of the Conference and Peter Oberlander). The Council's activities at Istanbul attracted useful public relations, and media attention was directed at two CHEC workshops, one in the NGO Forum and the other in the government arena, with Habitat in attendance.

A few months later, the Executive Director of Habitat agreed a CHEC/Habitat partnership towards a joint United Nations/Commonwealth programme. In preparation for this, the Executive Director invited a small Commonwealth delegation, led by CHEC, to participate in the Habitat partnership meetings at Geneva (January 1997), prior to the sixteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements at Nairobi (May 1997).

At Nairobi, supported by the Commonwealth secretariat, on 5 May 1997, habitat and CHEC jointly convened all 28 Commonwealth delegation members of the Commission on Human Settlements at a session on the theme "Commonwealth Governments and partners". The participants gave the CHEC/Habitat sponsors a mandate to promote a Commonwealth plan of action for Habitat, and enjoined CHEC and Habitat to present the issues at a forum in the arena of the Commonwealth heads of Government at Edinburgh, in October 1997.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies (see details on the partnership with Habitat provided below)

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

Preparation of projects on a regional basis through a Commonwealth task force is in initial stages to implement the Habitat Agenda.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

CHEC representatives attend United Nations sessions in New York at least on an annual basis, and when possible for extended periods. During those sessions, CHEC consults with officials of the Commission on Sustainable Development (forestry and others), Habitat and the missions of Commonwealth and other countries.

Preparation of papers

In response to a request from Habitat, eight national statements (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Barbados, United Kingdom, Cyprus) on the Habitat Agenda were prepared for the sixteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements (May 1997). In addition, during that session of the Commission, a Commonwealth plan of action was outlined.

Financial assistance and joint sponsorship of meetings

UNEP in 1994 gave CHEC a three-year grant to strengthen its publication service. CHEC's journal and newsletters are published more regularly, and are developing self-sufficiency.

At the second Manchester Global Forum (24–28 June 1994), a post-UNCED major event sponsored by Manchester City Council (to follow on from the United Kingdom Government's post-UNCED meeting on the theme "Partnerships for change" in 1993), CHEC convened a two-day Commonwealth forum co-sponsored by the Commonwealth secretariat and Commonwealth Foundation, with support and participation from the Canadian International Development Agency, UNEP, WHO, the World Bank and numerous Commonwealth organizations. It promoted cross-sectoral participation, with 20 Commonwealth professional associations organizing workshops for 200 participants, including ministers and local authorities, on the theme "Cities and rural sustainable development: coping with the external footprints of cities". This fostered outline projects towards practical steps to meet coordinated needs of housing, water, education and other areas, in an integrated, cooperative approach.

Consolidating CHEC's partnership with Habitat, a forum at Edinburgh (22–24 October 1997) provided the opportunity for a corporate body of the United Nations to contribute to a Commonwealth heads of Government meeting for the first time in the long history of Commonwealth summits. The forum attracted over 200 delegates from 35 countries, with 11 ministerial delegations. The proceedings were chaired by Charles Liburd, former permanent representatives of Guyana to UNEP and Habitat. The responsibilities of the Commonwealth in the Habitat Agenda and in the context of human ecology were identified and an action plan set in motion. The programme includes best practices, capacity-building and institutional strengthening under the integrative umbrella of CHEC and Habitat, and is being brought forward by a Commonwealth task force. The Commonwealth secretariat has since signed letters of understanding to work with Habitat.

Apart from CHEC's broad-based high-level partnerships, national chapters have also continued to work closely with United Nations agencies. For example, UNESCO and UNEP collaborated with CHEC-Pakistan in 1995 to organize a week-long workshop at Islamabad on the theme "Promoting the role of women in fostering environmental education for sustainable development".

Membership description and Numbers

Membership is open to any organization and individual wishing to identify with the worldwide outreach of CHEC and its programmes of human ecology and human well-

being, through its Commonwealth and international network of programmes and partners. CHEC members and subscribers are drawn from 44 countries, including 23 Commonwealth countries, as follows:

Members by region

Africa:

Sierra Leone 2
South Africa 2
Kenya 1
Congo 1
Nigeria 1

Asia:

Pakistan 3
Bangladesh 1
India 2
Sri Lanka 2
Japan 1
Malaysia 1
Viet Nam 1
Taiwan Province of China 2

Europe:

United Kingdom 62
Greece 1
Sweden 2

North America and Caribbean:

United States 6
Canada 7
Barbados 1
Dominican Republic 1
Jamaica 2

South America:

Brazil 1
Guyana 1
Argentina 1

South Pacific:

Fiji 1
New Zealand 6
Australia 9

The categories break down as follows:

Individual members 110

Corporate members (including intergovernmental organizations and governments) 11

Honorary members 53

Subscribers to journal 56

Exchange/complimentary 33

Libraries/universities/NGOs United Kingdom 7, overseas 16

Structure and governance of the organization

The constituent bodies of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council are: patrons (five), including all former Chairs of CHEC; (b) Honorary President and Board of Governors, representing 12 countries, non-voting associate Governing Board members, including active advisers; (c) Office — the administrative coordinating centre of CHEC; (d) Programme Implementation Committee and functional programme subcommittees; standing committee with United Nations membership; and task force. CHEC's collaborative role with Commonwealth professional associations and government machinery in Commonwealth countries is increasing. 1997 saw the consolidation of a comprehensive partnership between CHEC and Habitat. The Council is supported by the United Kingdom Government. CHEC's range of activities is recorded in CHEC publications.

5. Commonwealth Medical Association

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

The main aim and objective of the Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA) is to assist and strengthen the capacities of national medical associations in developing countries to improve the health and well-being of their communities, particularly the poorest members of society, whose health status is frequently unacceptably low with only limited access to information and services. While CMA works predominantly in countries of the Commonwealth in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Caribbean, it also involves other developing countries, as well as health professionals other than physicians, in its projects and programmes. Since the membership of the Commonwealth has increased during the past four years, so has that of CMA, with two large national medical associations joining the organization — Australia and South Africa — as well as those of the newest members of the Commonwealth, such as Mozambique.

During the past four years, CMA has worked in the following areas: women's health; adolescent health; reproductive health; and the role of medical ethics in the protection of human rights. A charitable trust — the Commonwealth Medical Association Trust — was established in 1995 to carry out those activities and facilitate their funding. It became fully active in 1997.

CMA recognizes that physicians and other health professionals, due to the heavy demands of their work, are able to spend only a limited time on activities outside their clinical practice. Accordingly, it aims to organize activities of a short time span, which are held "in country", whenever possible. More recently, CMA has begun to develop training modules and manuals which can be used by national health professional associations in providing continuing health professional education for their members.

CMA activities in preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women

CMA was active in meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and at the Conference itself. As Convenor of the Advocacy for Women's Health Group, which comprises international health professionals, reproductive health and women's organizations, CMA organized a number of parallel NGO events, including a round table on the theme "Women's health, including women's sexual and reproductive health", held at Bellagio in early 1994; a workshop on adolescent sexual and reproductive health held in New York at the time of the third ICPD Preparatory Committee meeting; and a workshop on the theme "Adolescent futures: adult fears", held at ICPD at Cairo.

Following ICPD, CMA was instrumental in working with other NGOs to ensure that women's health was fully addressed at the Fourth World Conference on Women. Activities included making an oral intervention and circulating a written statement at the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1995, and organizing a series of round tables at the time of the regional meetings for Europe and Africa in Vienna and Dakar, and in January and June 1995 in London and Beijing immediately before the Conference itself.

Post-Cairo and Beijing

Since the two Conferences, CMA has been involved in promoting their outcomes with national medical and other health professional associations and other concerned groups. It has produced a booklet for health professionals to explain the concept of reproductive health as set out in ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action, and has organized national one-day workshops in 15 developing countries and countries in transition on the implementation of the outcomes of ICPD and the Fourth World Conference on Women with respect to women's health and youth health.

CMA has regularly attended meetings of both the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development since 1995. It has held three international meetings — two interregional round tables, on the themes "Women's health, including women's sexual and reproductive health, as a human right" and "Measuring women's health status", and an interregional consultation on the theme "Medical ethics, including sexual and reproductive health, as a human right" — and has worked with members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in providing background information for a draft general recommendation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on rights relating to women's health.

Adolescent health

Recognizing that more than half of the world's population is below the age of 25, with nearly 85 per cent of them living in developing countries, CMA has been collaborating with the Adolescent Health Programme of the World Health Organization (ADH/WHO) and with UNICEF in developing activities on the health of young people. In 1995 an interregional workshop on the theme "Action for youth health" was held in Mauritius, following which CMA has been working with ADH/WHO in developing a series of training modules on various aspects of adolescent health, such as unwanted pregnancy; sexually transmitted diseases; adolescent mental health; and substance use and abuse. In 1997, those training modules were tested by CMA and ADH/WHO in Uganda and Zambia.

Medical ethics and human rights

The CMA's Guiding Principles on Medical Ethics, which were developed in 1993, are unique in that they represent the only available internationally recognized code of medical ethics to (a) deal with conditions of practice in developing countries; (b) set out the ethical obligations of health professionals to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the community; and (c) be annotated throughout with references to corresponding internationally recognized human rights instruments. Several of the principles, including their accompanying commentaries, were quoted verbatim and with approval by the Secretary-General in his report on human rights and bioethics submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session.

During the past four years, the Principles have been widely distributed to national medical and other health professional associations in developing countries, in some cases being adopted as the national code of medical ethics. In many developing countries, health professionals are not provided with any ethical guidance, particularly on human rights implications, with the possible exception of situations where doctors are involved in torture, judicial amputations etc. For this reason, CMA has been working to encourage health professional associations to introduce the teaching of medical ethics as part of continuing professional education, and has been developing a training manual to assist them. The draft manual was developed following a workshop at Dar es Salaam, and has been tested during 1997 in pilot workshops at Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania, and Karachi. In its development of the training manual, CMA has worked closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Liaison with the United Nations Secretariat

During the past four years, CMA has consulted with the United Nations Secretariat and its bodies. Regular meetings have been held with the Division for the Advancement of Women; the Centre for Human Rights; UNICEF; UNFPA; and WHO. In addition, members of those Secretariats have been invited to participate in CMA meetings and projects.

CMA greatly values the opportunities that consultative status provides for the organization in working in the health field in areas of international concern, and its close collaboration with national Governments, the United Nations Secretariat and non-governmental organizations.

6. Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches

(Special status granted 1969)

Aims and purposes

The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) was created in 1946 to ensure, *inter alia*, an effective relationship between the churches and the United Nations. Since 1948, CCIA has been an integral part of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and maintains a consultative relationship with the Council on its behalf. CCIA serves WCC and its 332 member churches in over 130 countries, with a total membership of over 500 million; regional and national councils of Christian churches around the world; and world confessional bodies. Its aim is to inform the churches on world issues, and to assist them in promoting peace with justice and freedom; the development of international law and of effective international institutions; respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including religious liberty; efforts for disarmament; the furthering of sustainable development, economic and social justice, the right to self-determination of peoples; and social, cultural, educational and humanitarian enterprises. The major source of income continues to be from its member churches.

Participation in the Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

CCIA/WCC has participated in most of the major United Nations world conferences held during this quadrennium, and often made substantive contributions to them and their Preparatory Committee meetings, including ICPD (Cairo); the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen), where an oral statement was made; and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing), where a written statement was submitted. WCC facilitated the presence at the NGO Forum at Huairou, China, of 50 women from around the world. Further, CCIA/WCC has participated in their follow-up through attendance at relevant Commission and related meetings (Commission for Social Development; Commission on the Status of Women; Commission on Sustainable Development; nineteenth special session of the General Assembly; and the third meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). CCIA/WCC has attended the Preparatory Committee meetings on the establishment of an International Criminal Court and as an NGO, is an active member of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court.

CCIA/WCC has sent delegations drawn from several regions of the world to meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission, where it has made written and oral submissions on pressing human rights concerns, including the question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment, the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, including the study of situations which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights; and measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migration workers. Regular indigenous representation has been made to the Subcommission's open-ended working group to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people. CCIA/WCC has cooperated with special rapporteurs and specialized committees through the periodic submission of information and facilitating contacts with human rights organizations, church bodies and victims in situations under study.

In general, broad regional representation, gender balance, and the participation of indigenous peoples and youth have been sought in the delegations formed to represent CCIA/WCC at United Nations meetings and conferences, in order to give expression to the conviction expressed in the Charter of the United Nations that the United Nations is an instrument of the "peoples".

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

CCIA/WCC maintains consultative relations with UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, UNHCR and UNEP. CCIA/WCC cooperates on a regular basis with the ILO, UNDP and WHO, as well as UNAIDS and IOM. It also cooperates with regional intergovernmental bodies, such as OAU, OAS and Council of Europe. In addition:

(a) UNHCR: WCC attended annual Executive Committee meetings and UNHCR staff participated in consultations organized by WCC. Regular meetings were held with the NGO Liaison Office, and with focal points on refugee women and children;

(b) IOM: WCC attended yearly meetings of the Governing Council, and submitted oral statements on migration;

(c) WHO: WCC attended yearly World Health Assemblies and twice yearly Executive Board meetings. WHO/Drug Action Programme annual meetings were

attended by WCC. WHO staff participated in a WCC pharmaceutical advisory group. Joint regional workshops were held in Africa on rational prescribing and drug use;

(d) UNESCO: in September 1994, WCC participated in the International Conference on Democracy and Tolerance, held at Seoul, Republic of Korea. In December 1994, WCC participated in meeting on the theme "The Contribution by religions to the culture of peace", held at Barcelona;

(e) UNEP: WCC attended the 1997 UNEP Governing Council meeting.

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

By means of its periodic and occasional publications, WCC assists the public information activities of the United Nations by informing its member churches around the world about a wide range of United Nations activities, and encouraging their participation and support. Subjects include coverage of the major world conferences and their follow-up meetings, migrants, refugee protection and assistance, indigenous peoples, primary health care, HIV/AIDS, women and violence, impunity, climate change, globalization and reports of WCC delegations to the Commission at its second, third and sixth sessions. An issue of *The Ecumenical Review* was devoted to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

In 1994, the International Migrant Rights Watch Committee was established as an independent monitoring body focusing on the situation of international migrants, to include promotion of the United Nations Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.

In 1997, the Ecumenical Year of the Churches in Solidarity with Uprooted People was proclaimed to call attention of churches to the situation of refugees, migrants and other displaced people. The governing bodies of WCC have issued statements calling to the attention of its member churches important United Nations initiatives and issues, such as nuclear testing, the status of Jerusalem, global warming and climate change, Burundi, sanctions against Iraq, Sierra Leone, South Africa, initiatives for peace in Sudan, Rwanda, conflict in former Yugoslavia

WCC has staffed programmes working on the implementation of the world programmes of action for Agenda 21, the status of women, social development, human rights, health for all. Also, staffed programmes include promoting a culture of peace, migrants and refugees, indigenous peoples, youth and primary health care.

Consultation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

CCIA/WCC has continued to follow closely the work of the Security Council, and has corresponded with the Secretary-General with respect to items on its agenda. Through its Geneva central office and its United Nations Headquarters liaison office in New York, CCIA maintains regular working relations with a broad range of offices in the United Nations Secretariat at various levels, including the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian Affairs, Political Affairs, Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, Public Information, and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities

Action by Churches Together (ACT), a consortium which brings together the emergency programmes of both WCC and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) was asked by WFP to support the creation of Food Aid Liaison Unit (FALU) for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Appeal 1996. ACT was requested to serve as "lead agency" for a consortium of NGOs to coordinate staff search and funding for FALU. ACT cooperated with WFP in providing assistance in the Great Lakes Region.

WCC membership

WCC is a fellowship of 332 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican churches throughout the world. To be a full member, a church must have 25,000 individual members. Churches having fewer than 25,000, though normally at least 10,000 members, are associate member churches. Member churches, by continent/region are: Africa: 80; Asia: 69; Pacific: 15; Caribbean: 11; Latin America: 26; Europe: 82; Middle East: 12; North America: 32. Total member churches are: 132 (in Germany, there are five regional church members which are members in their own right, but also members of the Evangelical Church in Germany, which is the main Protestant church body). Total individual members are: approximately 500 million.

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1999 session
Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service

(Special consultative status granted 1970)

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) was created in 1948 under the aegis of UNESCO. Since 1948, the CCIVS secretariat has been based at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, and the Committee is working in close cooperation with UNESCO and other United Nations agencies for the promotion and development of voluntary service programmes in the fields of literacy, cultural heritage, tolerance, peace, environment, health, agriculture etc. Constitutionally (article 2 of the constitution), the purpose of CCIVS is the promotion and development of voluntary service towards peace, international understanding, improving the future of humanity, the support of United Nations principles, and cooperation and contribution to the implementation of the programmes and the initiatives of the United Nations and its bodies. CCIVS is an international NGO. At the end of 1997, there were 134 international and national members, with 237 national offices in 90 countries. Geographical membership has expanded over the period. There were many changes of membership, with expulsions of defunct members and the admission of new ones in existing countries. In addition, new members have been accepted from Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Ethiopia, Libya, Maldives, Palestine, the Philippines, South Africa, Uganda, Venezuela, Zimbabwe and Zambia. In addition, new regional structures of members have now been established in East, South and West Africa, East Europe, Asia and the Mediterranean.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council

(a) CCIVS: Participated in the United Nations Youth Forum (preparatory meetings and conference in 1996);

(b) Participated in different meetings and consultations organized by the regional commissions;

(c) Was involved in the preparation of the International Year of Volunteers, 2001 (with UNV).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and agencies

Below is a description of regular liaison contacts and projects that CCIVS has been implementing in cooperation with the United Nations and United Nations agencies (mainly UNESCO). The projects have been implemented with the technical and/or financial assistance of United Nations agencies.

Cooperation with the United Nations

CCIVS works with the Youth Unit of the United Nations Secretariat for developing youth voluntary programmes and maintaining regular liaison regarding voluntary service and youth issues in general. CCIVS:

(a) Participated in preparatory meetings for the last two United Nations Youth Forums;

(b) Participated in United Nations Youth Forums.

CCIVS has official accreditation to the regional commissions. Since 1994, regular contacts have been made with ESCAP in order to develop voluntary service programmes in the Asia and Pacific region. CCIVS participated in:

(a) A regional expert meeting on youth training needs (Bangkok, 1997);

(b) ESCAP missions for the development of voluntary service programmes in the ESCAP region.

Cooperation with United Nations agencies

UNESCO: Since CCIVS was created under the aegis of UNESCO in 1948, its secretariat is based in UNESCO headquarters in Paris, and has had official formal relations with UNESCO for more than 49 years. CCIVS works very closely with the main sectors of the organization (culture, education, social sciences etc.).

CCIVS cooperation with UNESCO is normally programmed and adopted by the UNESCO General Conference every two years (UNESCO programme and budget). CCIVS:

(a) Has cooperated in the field of UNESCO programme implementation since 1994, including:

(i) More than 40 projects in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and South America;

(ii) Participation in conferences, consultations at UNESCO headquarters and in the field;

(iii) Studies and publications (more than 20 publications);

(b) Has participated in all UNESCO General Conferences;

(c) Has implemented UNESCO resolutions relevant to CCIVS (voluntary service activities, youth projects, volunteers for cultural heritage etc.);

(d) Has undertaken liaison and daily work with all UNESCO sectors/divisions and field offices.

Cooperation with other United Nations agencies and Economic and Social Council subsidiary bodies

As in previous years, CCIVS has cooperated with different United Nations agencies (FAO, World Bank, UNDP, UNV, UNICEF). Apart from regular contacts and liaison between the CCIVS secretariat and those United Nations agencies, special projects have been implemented by CCIVS with their technical/financial assistance. The following projects were organized with UNDP:

(a) An evaluation mission on voluntary service in West Africa by the CCIVS Director (1997);

(b) A reconstruction project in Liberia (1997);

(c) Participation in a conference on world development report (1997).

CCIVS has also cooperated with UNV (regular programme and liaison with UNV and preparation of the International Year of Volunteers, 2001), the World Bank (environmental project in Togo in 1998) and FAO (consultations on rural youth programmes and voluntary service), as well as UNICEF.

Other relevant activities

CCIVS has:

(a) Contributed to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/81 and 52/80;

(b) Contributed to the implementation of relevant UNESCO resolutions;

(c) Implemented action 3 of the international agenda of the report of the World Commission on Culture and Development.

2. Council of International Programs

(Special consultative status granted 1989)

The Council of International Programs, through its affiliates and its relationship to the Council of International Fellowship, promotes worldwide educational, cultural and professional enrichment for individuals who are concerned with human services and related professions. It also includes those individuals who while the field of their occupation may not be itself concerned with human capacity development nonetheless concern themselves with human services. The Council of International Programs (CIP) meets its goals and objectives by providing enrichment and training through an on-site professional trainingship, courses at local universities, seminars, conferences etc.

CIP individualizes its programme to meet specific needs of individuals or small groups. Thus, the programme has rolling admissions. The continuous interaction of small groups of individuals from different cultures with common interests allows for the development of a network across borders.

United Nations-related activities

The NGO representative of CIP attends briefings held for NGOs. The Council is represented on the UNICEF NGO Committee, participating in its working group on education. CIP was represented at the World Summit for Social Development. The organization was also represented at the International Forum for Child Welfare, held in Canada in 1996. The organization was represented at other presentations such as human development challenges in the Russian Federation sponsored by UNDP.

The organization's international conference, which is held every two years, met in Scotland during this period. In 1999, it will meet in the Netherlands. While all participants have been encouraged to make contact with their local, country UNICEF or United Nations office, the organization will be targeting specific countries in 1999. This will be an effort to encourage partnership with other NGOs as well as UNICEF. We will be supporting some of the initiatives on urban education.

We are in the process of contacting our membership in countries that have been designated by UNICEF for specific initiatives for the NGO Committee on Education: India, Thailand, Egypt, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Guatemala, the Philippines and Senegal. In addition, we are exploring the possibility of collaboration between CIP and Childhood Education International in those countries.

The NGO representative continues to facilitate the use of various United Nations materials, as requested by members. Recently, the organization did a survey of its membership to produce a more current and accurate assessment of its membership. The organization, through its relationship with Council of International Fellowship, has been able to obtain a better profile of its membership, as

follows, there are active units in some areas and individual members in others; countries or areas marked with an asterisk(*) have active national organizations but no available membership count:

Albania (2), Argentina (10), Australia (6), Austria (2), Bahamas (4), Bahrain (1), Bangladesh (6), Barbados (5), Belize (6), Bolivia (2), Botswana (1), Brazil (3), Bulgaria (1), Cameroon (2), Canada (20), Chile (2), China (5), Columbia (3), Congo (2), Costa Rica (8), Côte d'Ivoire,* Croatia (2), Cyprus (1), Czech Republic (2), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (1), Denmark (4), Egypt (2), El Salvador (4), Estonia (1), Ethiopia (2), Finland (8), France (5), Gambia (1), Georgia (1), Germany,* Ghana (9), Greece,* Grenada (1), Guatemala (2), Guyana (3), Honduras (2), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China (1), Hungary,* Iceland (2), India,* Indonesia (1), Ireland (2), Israel,* Italy,* Jamaica,* Japan,* Jordan (2), Kenya (2), Kuwait (1), Latvia (5), Lebanon (1), Lesotho (1), Liberia (2), Lithuania (5), Malawi (2), Malaysia (1), Madagascar (1), Malta (3), Mauritius (1), Mexico (3), Morocco (8), Mozambique (1), Namibia (2), Nepal (1), Netherlands,* Netherlands Antilles (1), Nigeria (3), Norway,* Panama (1), Paraguay (1), Peru,* Philippines (2), Poland,* Portugal,* Republic of Korea (1), Republic of Moldova (1), Romania,* Russian Federation,* Saudi Arabia (1), Senegal (1), Sierra Leone (1), Singapore (1), Slovakia (3), South Africa,* Spain,* Saint Lucia (1), Suriname (2), Swaziland (1), Sweden,* Switzerland,* Taiwan Province of China (3), Thailand (1), Trinidad (1), Turkey,* Uganda (2), Ukraine (3), United Kingdom,* United Republic of Tanzania (2), United States Virgin Islands (1), Uruguay (1), Venezuela (2), Yemen (1), Yugoslavia (2), Zambia (2) and Zimbabwe (1).

The organization continues to encourage its alumnae to support the initiatives of the United Nations and to support the Convention on the Rights of the Child. That emphasis has been reflected in the requests for individualized programmes among exchange participants.

Funding

The organization continues to be heavily dependent on voluntarism. Its funding sources are now primarily from foundations, corporate support and fund-raising by affiliates. Some Governments, in a limited way, support some of the participants who wish to engage in the exchange programmes. A focus on recruitment to increase the number of participants is being addressed. The programme membership appears to have a strong network that offers support to individual members and national affiliates.

Future plans

As mentioned in a previous report, the organization has relocated to Ohio, where it was started. There has been further thought to restructuring; however, this has not been clearly defined. The aims and goals of the organization remain commitment to international understanding and cooperation for human capacity development.

3. International Federation of University Women

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Introduction

The International Federation of University Women (IFUW) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization comprised of more than 180,000 graduate women speaking out locally, nationally and internationally on priority issues of common concern. IFUW, with its 67 national federations and associations, is committed to the right of women and girls to education so that they realize their full potential. The mission of IFUW is to advocate for the improvement of the status of women and girls at the international level, promote lifelong education and enable graduate women to use their expertise to effect change. IFUW offers an international fellowship programme. The Federation's study and action programme theme since 1992 has been "Women's future, world future: education for survival and progress". Between 1995 and 1998, there were four specific focal priorities: education, poverty, violence and the adolescent girl.

During the years under review, the number of affiliates in IFUW has grown from 59 to 67, with new members coming mainly from developing countries and Central and Eastern Europe. Severe economic constraints faced by members in countries in transition continue to make their participation in IFUW programmes a difficult challenge.

IFUW's general budget is completely funded by membership contributions. Grants from UNICEF and national development agencies helped to finance IFUW's special programme on capacity-building and organizational strengthening for women's and children's NGOs in the Baltic region, Eastern Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

IFUW continues to cooperate with four international women's NGOs on joint women and development projects in project 5-0, a UNESCO co-action project.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council

IFUW representatives attend most meetings of the Council, giving special attention to sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, the Commission on Human Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child at Geneva, as well as, to a lesser extent, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at Vienna. IFUW is also very involved in activities with UNESCO in Paris, and follows with increased attention the activities of the ILO at Geneva.

Conferences

IFUW has been represented at United Nations world conferences, including meetings of preparatory committees and regional meetings. IFUW cooperated with other NGOs to ensure that the role of women and girls was mainstreamed through conference documentation, as well as receiving specific attention. For the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, IFUW gave particular emphasis to the issue of the girl child.

At the International Conference on Population and Development, IFUW was represented by two experts in reproductive health and population.

At the World Summit for Social Development, five IFUW representatives attended. IFUW was a key contributor to a workshop organized by the NGO Committee of UNICEF and other NGOs on the theme "Poverty: what way out?", which stressed the need for empowerment of women and girls. An IFUW member was a keynote speaker in the session on the girl child and gender equity.

At the Fourth World Conference on Women, IFUW participated with a delegation of five members led by the IFUW President, who addressed a plenary session with a statement on peace. Many members attended as part of their national delegations. IFUW also sent representatives to preparatory meetings in 1994 and 1995, as well as to the regional meetings at Jakarta in June 1994 (Asia and Pacific); Buenos Aires in September 1994 (Latin America and the Caribbean); Vienna in October 1994 (Europe and North America) and Dakar in November 1994 (Africa). IFUW was instrumental in the introduction of the girl child as one of the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action adopted by the Conference.

At Habitat II, IFUW participated with a delegation of five, led by the IFUW President. Two representatives addressed the main Conference on the topics of capacity-building and women in development, as a new participation of NGOs. The IFUW President presented a paper entitled "The effects of urbanization on women and children" during a workshop organized by the UNICEF NGO Committee. The Turkish Association of University Women was a leader in organizing the Forum of NGOs which was run parallel to the main Conference.

At the UNESCO Fifth International Conference on Adult Education held at Hamburg in July 1997, IFUW was represented by an expert in education.

At regional conferences held in 1997 in preparation of the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education in Paris in October 1998, IFUW had representatives at Dakar for Africa, at Tokyo for Asia and the Pacific, at Palermo for Europe and at Beirut (in early 1998) for the Middle East. They insisted on the specific problems faced by women in higher education, especially in leadership positions in the academia.

Other United Nations meetings

IFUW has been active at the thirty-eighth through the forty-first sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, especially through its roles as co-Chair of the NGO working group on girls based in New York, Convenor of the NGO working group on women's employment and economic development, and co-Convenor of the working group on women's participation in decision-making based at Geneva. It unites coalitions of NGOs to present oral and written statements focusing on the girl child, the need for a comprehensive human rights approach to women's health, the importance of cooperation between women's organizations in fighting poverty, women and the economy, decision-making, and education and training.

IFUW has been vigilant and made statements at the fiftieth through the fifty-third sessions of the Commission on Human Rights to encourage the integration in all agenda items of the mainstreaming of the rights of women and the introduction of the legal framework that would guarantee such mainstreaming in subsequent sessions. It has actively facilitated work in the general debate of the working group for the elaboration of the draft protocols on the rights of the child, in particular girl adolescents.

During the quadrennium, IFUW participated as observer at several technical meetings of the International Labour Organization and at the annual sessions of its Conference, making statements on women in the banking

sector, the employment of women in leadership roles in educational personnel, women in management, and encouraging greater ILO coordination with other human rights mechanisms in consistently including the differential impact of gender in all policies, programmes and practices. During the ILO Conference in June 1997, IFUW was one of the NGO organizers of a round table on the theme "Child labour: the invisible work of girls and domestic work".

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and specialized agencies

As one of 22 organizations in consultative status with UNIFEM and through its consultative relations with the Division for the Advancement of Women and INSTRAW, IFUW cooperates in programmes and preparation of meetings relating to women's issues.

With UNICEF, IFUW has continued to cooperate in girl child and capacity-building for development programmes, and has been very active as Treasurer of the Board of the UNICEF NGO Committee until June 1997. At the 1995 triennial conference, seminars were held on two issues related to the girl child: poverty and the girl child, and a multi-religious perspective on girlhood and education. One seminar was held jointly with UNESCO on higher education and the university curriculum. All three were presented as workshops during the NGO Forum parallel to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

At UNESCO, IFUW is one of 63 NGOs with formal consultative status after the reclassification of NGOs implied in the new directives. It is a member of the NGO collective consultations on literacy and education for all, and status of women and gender equality, and is especially active in the collective consultation on higher education. Among other activities, the President of IFUW and other IFUW representatives have contributed to studies for the preparation of the fifth UNESCO-NGO collective consultation on higher education in 1997 on the consequences of change for graduate employment. An IFUW representative will convene a thematic debate on issues and perspectives for women in higher education, and several members will participate as panellists, discussants and members of the IFUW delegation in the World Conference on Higher Education, to be held in Paris in October 1998.

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

At the IFUW triennial conference in August 1995, a resolution was passed asking national affiliates to urge their Governments to follow up and implement the recommendations included in the programmes of action adopted at the five United Nations conferences held from 1993 to 1996, with particular reference to the well-being of women and girls. At other meetings of IFUW, special workshops dealt with the girl child (1994), and follow-up to Beijing and Habitat II (1997).

At national levels, many IFUW affiliates conducted studies themselves or participated in coalitions of women NGOs to monitor their Governments on the follow-up of the platforms for action adopted at the Conferences, especially the Fourth World Conference on Women. For example the Canadian Federation was responsible for the preparation of the chapter on The Girl Child for the Canadian Follow-up Guide to Beijing 95: "Take Action for Equality, Development and Peace" published by the Canadian Beijing NGO Facilitating Committee, and the New Zealand Federation worked within the NGO Coordinating Committee which prepared "Beyond Beijing — New Zealand Women Respond".

United Nations reforms stress the importance of NGOs' participation in the work of the United Nations. IFUW values highly its consultative status with ECOSOC and its advocacy work at the international level. Coalitions among women NGOs on issues of common interest are becoming common practice and IFUW is working more and more along this pattern. It is now considering to participate as one of 16 NGOs in a project coordinated by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York to prepare country reports on the implementation of CEDAW that will be presented along with the Governments reports to the Committee in 1999.

4. International Senior Citizens Association, Inc.

(Special consultative status granted 1970)

The International Senior Citizens Association (ISCA) was founded in 1963 by Marjorie Thorn Borchardt. Mrs. Borchardt believed that world peace and understanding could be achieved through the leadership of seniors around the world. ISCA is an independent organization open to all mature people regardless of nationality, race, creed or economic status. The purposes of ISCA are to act as a catalyst and forum for the exchange of ideas for mature voices on global issues; establish means of friendly communication among mature people for education and cultural development; enhance the prestige of mature people

in world affairs through utilization of their wisdom and experience; and cooperate with non-profit and government agencies working for the welfare and happiness of mature people throughout the world. ISCA currently represents membership in all five continents. It provides a global network of governmental, corporate, industrial organizations and individuals worldwide.

We have biennial conferences (held at Dublin in 1994 and at Manila in 1996). The purpose of the conference is to bring together representatives of all countries to discuss issues and concerns of seniors throughout the world.

Annual programmes

Marjorie Thorn Borchardt Award

This award in memory of our founder and first president, who contributed greatly to the enrichment of the lives of the elderly, is given to an outstanding volunteer who has contributed substantially in his or her efforts to work for the welfare and happiness of mature people throughout the world.

Borchardt International Pageant

This Pageant brings together and unites seniors from all ethnic communities. This is a day of cultural entertainment and ethnic exhibits to recognize all cultural and ethnic groups.

Forums

Speakers address global concerns related to senior citizen issues and the welfare of all peoples. Speakers have addressed the issues of medicare, social security, housing, health insurance and current events affecting seniors.

ISCA co-sponsors with other senior organizations many annual events in order to facilitate communication among the elderly, celebrate diversity for the purpose of world betterment, and promote the welfare and happiness of older persons. To name a few: African-American Heritage Celebration (February event); Asian and Pacific Islander Older Adults Festival (May event); Latin American Heritage Programme (September event); and the Central City Senior Programme (October event) which provides information to seniors, caregivers, mobility and/or sense-impaired persons and friends.

Our programmes urge seniors to work within their communities to ensure well-being and health for all, understanding of differences, and attention to the simple requirements of daily living.

The ISCA quarterly newsletter *Forum* is the primary vehicle for providing information to members of ISCA chapters throughout the world on how older persons can contribute to world betterment. ISCA has developed a worldwide network of concerned individuals, chapters and member organizations, and has emerged as a major voice for seniors worldwide. ISCA is very proud of its continuing growth. Since 1994, chapters and affiliates have greatly increased. We feel that that fact alone is impressive evidence of ISCA's importance and relevance to senior citizens throughout the world.

We are continuing our official affiliation with the United Nations initiated by Mrs. Borchardt in order to establish means and a forum by which older persons may contribute to world betterment and provide valuable input into global concerns relating to senior issues. Our affiliation with the United Nations provides a mechanism for providing input on senior citizen issues at a recognized and highly influential level.

Lois Wellington, ISCA President, attended the nineteenth General Assembly of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations at Geneva (1–3 November 1994); Lois Wellington, President, and Christopher Valente, Chief Executive Officer, attended the forty-eighth annual NGO/DPI conference in New York (18–20 September 1995); Christopher Valente, Chief Executive Officer, and Yung-Ping Chen, Executive Board member, attended the forty-ninth annual DPI/NGO conference in New York (10–12 September 1996); and Christopher Valente, Chief Executive Officer, and Yuki Yao, ISCA New York representative to the United Nations, attended the fiftieth annual DPI/NGO conference in New York (10–12 September 1997).

ISCA is working with 88 cities in the county of Los Angeles, and has contacted all its international chapters worldwide to be involved in some capacity by implementing programmes and activities honouring the International Year of Older Persons, 1999.

To quote our founder, Marjorie Thorn Borchardt, "Ageing knows no distinctions between geographical borders or between political divisions; all are united under the bonds of age".

5. Socialist International

(General consultative status granted 1973)

Socialist International (SI) is a worldwide organization of socialist, social democratic and labour parties. Since its

re-establishment in 1951, SI has provided its members with a forum for political action, policy discussion, dialogue and exchange. Its statements and decisions advise member organizations and the international community of consensus views within the global family of socialist, social democratic and labour parties. SI seeks to strengthen democracy and to promote peace, economic and social development, and the full enjoyment of human, civil and political rights. In July 1995, Socialist International's consultative status was reclassified to general status by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Since 1994, SI membership has increased from 111 to 139 political parties and organizations, with new members from Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cameroon, Dominica, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Gabon, Georgia, Haiti, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, the Niger, Panama, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and the territories under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority. Over this period, Socialist International has continued to strengthen its global character and universality, and to contribute to the objectives and work of the United Nations through its activities in every region of the world.

During the period in question, in fulfilment of a mandate to study the reform of the United Nations, a working group of the SI Committee for Peace, Security and Disarmament held a series of meetings at United Nations Headquarters in New York in January 1994 with officials responsible for political affairs and peace operations, and also held a number of meetings with permanent representatives of different regional groups at the United Nations and members of the Security Council. The group reported to a Socialist International Council meeting at Tokyo in May 1994.

In February 1994, the SI Committee on Economic Policy, Development and Environment held a special gathering at Geneva to focus on the role of international financial institutions, with the participation of representatives of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the regional economic commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Labour Organization.

In 1994 and 1995, SI participated in preparatory discussions concerning the World Summit for Social Development, and attended meetings with the Chair of the Preparatory Committee and other officials of the United Nations.

In 1994, in preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development held at Cairo in September 1994, SI participated in a series of meetings held in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund.

The Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing in September 1995, was a major focus of attention for SI and its members, who fully shared the objectives of the Conference and many of whom contributed to this initiative.

In June 1996, a meeting of the SI Committee on Local Authorities focused on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which a delegation of SI attended.

In September 1996, the Twentieth Socialist International Congress was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, to underline the commitment of this organization to the principles and objectives of the United Nations. A number of guests from the United Nations diplomatic community attended.

During the period 1994–1997, SI has continually reiterated its support of the United Nations mandate to ensure global stability and security. Sharing the United Nations commitment to disarmament, SI extensively supported the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty through the activities of its Committee on Peace, Security and Disarmament. At its Council meeting in November 1997, SI unanimously endorsed the anti-personnel landmine treaty.

SI supported United Nations work in Mozambique, where SI liaised with officials of the United Nations and participated as observers in elections in October 1994 that marked the culmination of the United Nations-sponsored peace process.

Equally, SI closely followed peacekeeping operations in former Yugoslavia, and numerous contacts were made and discussions held with officers of the United Nations Protection Force and other United Nations officials. A number of visits were made to the region, including a visit by the SI President and Secretary-General in November 1995.

In the period 1994–1997, SI continued to actively encourage peace talks in the Middle East based on Security Council resolutions. In January 1996, an SI mission observed the elections of the Palestinian Legislative Council. In February 1996, an SI mission visited the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Israel for field-level discussions on the peace process. Over this period, a number of meetings

were held by the SI Middle East Committee (at Cairo in November 1994; at Tel Aviv, Gaza City and Amman in March 1995; and at Ramallah and Tel Aviv in May 1997).

SI, through the work of its specialized Committee on Human Rights, welcomed the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to its meeting at Geneva in November 1994, where discussions focused on human rights initiatives and mechanisms to foster and protect those rights.

SI shares the commitment of the United Nations to assist in ensuring the holding of free and fair elections in situations of transition to multi-party democracy and in other particular national circumstances, and election observation forms an important part of SI activity. In the period 1994–1997, Socialist International missions to observe elections were conducted in April 1994 to South Africa; in May 1994 to the Dominican Republic; in August 1994 to Mexico; in May 1996 and June-July 1996 (first and second rounds) to the Dominican Republic; and in October 1996 to Nicaragua.

Socialist International activities over the period 1994–1997 have reaffirmed this organization's wholehearted support for the United Nations, and its commitment to ensuring that international institutions for peace and cooperation are supported and equipped to fulfil their role.

6. Soroptimist International

(General consultative status granted 1984)

Soroptimist International

SI is an association of four soroptimist federations, with 97,022 members, and 3,124 clubs in 112 countries and territories. Its objectives are (a) to maintain high ethical standards in business, the professions, and other aspects of life;(b) to strive for human rights for all people, in particular to advance the status of women; (c) to develop a spirit of friendship and unity among soroptimists of all countries; (d) to quicken the spirit of service and human understanding; (e) to contribute to international understanding and universal friendship. Clubs worldwide work within the same six programme areas of economic and social development, education, environment, health, human rights/status of women, and international goodwill and understanding. The policy of SI is to be concerned with international and national issues that relate to its objects and programmes. On matters of political controversy between nations, party politics and sectarian religion, SI maintains a position of strict neutrality.

Participation in Conferences and other meetings

SI representatives have participated in each of the sessions of the Council's numerous preparatory committee meetings and sessions of subsidiary bodies dealing with opening of the International Year of the Family (Vienna and New York) and follow-on meetings of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family; status of women; ageing; narcotic drugs and substance abuse; elimination of discrimination against women; health; women, employment and entrepreneurship; human rights; environment and sustainable development; population and development; women and peace; refugee women; traditional practices adversely affecting the health of women and children; prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities; the girl child; human settlements (Habitat); crime prevention; HIV-AIDS; sexual exploitation; rights of the child; child labour; nutrition; and review of arrangements for consultations with NGOs. SI has also been represented at other meetings and conferences including a large delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), which included our members from developing countries, as well as the Nordic Forum (Turku, Finland, 1994), and all regional preparatory meetings, i.e., Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Jakarta, 1994), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Mar del Plata, 1994), Economic Commission for Europe (Vienna, 1994; SI organized and ran a workshop on action for women in a changing world, education for women, women as partners in the economy and training women as entrepreneurs), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Amman, 1994) and Economic Commission for Africa (Dakar, 1994). Other conferences and meetings included: International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994); NGO World Forum on Drug Demand Reduction (Bangkok, 1994); Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Bridgetown, Barbados, 1994); World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995; SI organized and ran a workshop on the theme "Education for girls and women: best investment"); Habitat II (Istanbul, 1996; SI organized and ran a workshop, an exhibition and a poster competition); World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm, 1996); World Food Summit (Rome, 1996); Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997); Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997); Commission on Social Development (New York, 1997);

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997); Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, 1994, 1995 and 1997); General Conference of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Vienna, 1996, 1997); Commission on Human Rights and Subcommission on Prevention of Racial Discrimination and Minorities (Geneva, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997); International Labour Conference (Geneva, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997); UNESCO twelfth collective consultation on literacy (Tokyo, 1995); Fifth International Conference on Adult Education (Hamburg, 1997); and World Health Assembly (Geneva, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997). Special events included World Habitat Day; International Day of the Elderly; World AIDS Day; Human Rights Day and Women's Day celebrations. Statements were made to the following forums: launch IYF in 1994; Commission on the Status of Women in 1994, 1996 and 1997; World Summit for Social Development in 1995; substantive session of 1995 of the Council; review conference of States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (Vienna 1995); Sixth General Conference of UNIDO (Vienna, 1995); Habitat II (Istanbul, 1996); World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm, 1995); World Food Summit (Rome, 1996); sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in 1997; and nineteenth special session of the General Assembly. SI joined with other NGOs in preparing and signing a large number of statements to the Council and its subsidiary bodies between 1994 and 1997.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and agencies

SI has representatives accredited to the Council in New York and at Geneva and Vienna; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Geneva; UNICEF in New York and at Geneva; the ILO at Geneva; UNIDO at Vienna and UNESCO in Paris. It also has official relations with the World Health Organization at Geneva. The representatives have served on various NGO committees and working groups, including committees dealing with: Fourth World Conference on Women; CEDAW; review of arrangements for consultations with NGOs; UNIFEM (Vice-Chair 1996–1998 and Secretary 1994–1996); status of women (Treasurer 1994–1996); shelter and community (Vice-Chair 1994–1995); task forces on women and decision-making; and violence against women; ageing; women's health; status of women; elderly women; health and the environment; the girl child (UNICEF); youth; narcotics and substance abuse; the family; sustainable development; UNICEF — Children in Crisis Situations; rights of the child; child labour; child prostitution and child pornography; child sexual abuse; women refugees; traditional practices adversely affecting the health of women and children; and nutrition and development. SI has also actively participated on the CONGO Board and was an elected member until 1997. UNICEF: SI contributed to an appeal project in December 1997 (initial donation of $117,000), entitled "From labour to learning in India", through the "Joyful learning" initiative. This project will provide education through dance, song and mime, as well as more conventional methods of teaching, to equip children to get themselves and their families out of poverty. UNIFEM: Soroptimists worldwide contributed to the UNIFEM "Dollars for women campaign". UNHCR: $98,000 was given to a project to aid Somali refugee women who were victims of violence (1994). In cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, $127,000 was donated to a project which helped to reunite displaced families in former Yugoslavia (1995). SI is very actively involved as one of the five women's NGOs responsible for project FIVE-O, a cooperative venture, in collaboration with UNESCO, which helps women in developing countries in vocational and other training.

Implementation of United Nations resolutions

Soroptimists continue to be a global voice for women through awareness, advocacy and action and by promoting relationships with the United Nations. SI members strive for human rights for all, and equality, development and peace through international goodwill and understanding. They support United Nations resolutions by being committed to service to local, national and international communities, and by active participation in decision-making at all levels of society. Delegates at the Fifteenth SI Quadrennial Convention at San Francisco, in July 1995, voted to universally adopt the 12 critical areas of concern contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as the 1995–1999 SI programme focus, and members worldwide have been continually monitoring Governments' actions in support of the commitments they made at Beijing. Soroptimists worldwide remain steadfast in urging their national Governments to ratify and sign the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and support laws granting gender equality. They also advocate the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Clubs have responded to the following United Nations special years: 1994 International Year of the Family (when SI was awarded a testimonial in recognition of its exemplary support); International Year of Tolerance, 1995 (when SI representatives to UNESCO were instrumental in setting up

and running a poster competition); and International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, 1996. Work continues in the field of human rights and the advancement of the status of women, with two notable appeals in cooperation with the Mines Advisory Group: (a) in 1995, members contributed US$ 218,000 to fund a community landmine education programme to train selected people from communities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic to survey, mark and clear landmines, and (b) in 1996 US$ 302,000 was donated to fund "Project safe journey — Angola" to clear heavily mined areas which were preventing refugees returning home to Angola from Zambia and former Zaire.

Consultations have taken place between SI representatives and members of the United Nations Secretariat in New York, Geneva and Vienna on items of concern being debated by related United Nations bodies. Between 1994 and 1997, SI International Presidents visited and had regular consultations with the secretariats of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in New York, Geneva and Vienna, and at UNESCO in Paris.

Many communications addressed to NGOs by United Nations agencies received full attention by SI, whether requests for information or invitations to nominate experts to take part in special activities and meetings.

Economic and social development

Soroptimists worldwide worked to eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women; actively ensured equality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels; fostered gender equality in economic structures and policies, and in all forms of productive activity; and worked in all ways possible to strive for sufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women. This was achieved through projects which promoted the training of women and girls (particularly in non-traditional occupations); economic literacy programmes; active encouragement of women as entrepreneurs by supporting all business enterprises; the promotion of income-generating projects; and acknowledgement of the role of women in decision-making and as role models for female advancement.

Education

Soroptimists ensured equality of access to education, and enabled the girl child to reach her full potential by funding and supporting basic, functional and computer literacy programmes; hosting language training for migrant women; advocating provision of library services; providing scholarships to enable women to develop literacy skills; encouraging education in parenting; promoting provision of training opportunities for women and girls, particularly in scientific, technical and managerial subjects; and actively promoting and funding re-entry programmes for women. Many thousands of dollars continue to be donated by soroptimists to literacy projects around the world in support of SI's sincere belief that education for women is the key to progress in relation to the ultimate goal of equality, development and peace.

Environment

Soroptimists ensured recognition and support for women's contribution to managing natural resources and safeguarding the environment through projects which studied air quality; fresh and marine water and soil conditions; sanitation; all forms of pollution; deforestation and erosion. They continued to work to combat problems connected with solid and hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals, as well as reduction, reuse and recycling of products, wherever possible. Soroptimists planted thousands of trees and supported many projects which protected habitats.

Health

Soroptimists prevented illness and promoted wellness for the whole life cycle by donating US$ 716,000 to a joint project with Sight Savers in Bangladesh, which established seven under-fives clinics to provide services for children and information for their mothers in preventing child blindness; until 1999, funding a project with the Population and Community Development Association (US$ 461,000 already donated) to provide AIDS education and alternatives to prostitution for women in northern Thailand; and supporting numerous projets in the areas of nutrition, hygiene, cancer screening, immunization, prevention of cardiovascular diseases, drug and substance abuse, support of the Safe Motherhood Initiative, traditional practices, genetic (hereditary) diseases and prevention of accidents. Positive support systems continue to be encouraged, particularly for the elderly and those with chronic diseases, including dementia and cancer, with support also being given to the carers of those sufferers. The problem of HIV/AIDS has also been addressed by advocating education, information, encouragement of research, support of human rights of patients and families affected, and the participation of women in prevention and control.

Human rights/status of women

Soroptimists have endeavoured to halt violence against women; pledged awareness and commitment to international

and national norms and standards that endorse and safeguard the full and equal enjoyment by women of all human rights, and increased participation of women in conflict resolution and decision-making in peace and security activities; and reduced the impact of armed and other kinds of conflicts on women by continued hands-on support and provision of education for women and children who are victims or likely victims of violence and abuse. Counselling and assistance has been provided to family groups; support has been provided for the rights of the child, with action to eliminate all forms of child exploitation; the advancement of women has been worked towards by ensuring equality in economic, social and political participation; and the care and rights of the aged have been focused upon, including the recognition and encouragement of their contribution to society.

International goodwill and understanding

Soroptimists have utilized mass media to advance women's positive contributions to society, and given assistance to refugees, migrants and displaced persons, in particular women and children. This has been done by encouraging intercultural understanding, assisting in projects with other NGOs and providing aid and support, particularly to affected areas of Eastern Europe.

At SI and federation conferences and conventions, there have been United Nations speakers and United Nations-related topics as agenda items. The organization publishes a quarterly magazine, *The International Soroptimist*, in English, French and Japanese, which is widely circulated to United Nations offices. The four federations within the organization each publishes its own magazine, all giving extensive coverage to the work of the United Nations and the work of its specialized agencies. Reports of meetings, resolutions and important directives which are in line with the aims and work of SI are also covered in those publications.